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JOHN HUNTER.  
BY SIR JOSHUA REYNOLDS.

Page 287





59~

MEMS. MAXIMS,

AND

MEMOIRS.

BY

WILLIAM WADD, ESQ. F. L. S.

SURGEON EXTRAORDINARY TO THE KING,

&c. &c. &c.

---

Quidquid agunt *Medici*,  
nostri est farrago libelli.

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LONDON:

PRINTED FOR CALLOW AND WILSON, MEDICAL BOOKSELLERS,  
PRINCES STREET, SOHO.

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1827.



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Printed by J. Davy, Queen Street, Seven Dials.



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## MEMORANDA.

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Anno.

1070. **T**HE first hospital for sick persons founded at Canterbury, by Lanfranc, Archbishop of that diocese.

1087. William the Conqueror, in his last illness, attended by Gilbert, Bishop of Lisieux, and Goulard, Abbot of Jumiges, the most skilful physicians of his time.

1134. Houses established for the reception of Leprous persons, at Reading, and at Aylesbury. Leprous patients hung if found after sun-set.

1163. By a decree of the Council of Tours, all deacons and priests prohibited from exercising any part of chirurgery, in which cauteries and incisions were required.

1240. Richardus Anglicus, the first English medical writer.

Anno.

1298. Wine sold by Apothecaries as a cordial.
1315. Jean Pittard, founder of the Academy of Surgery at Paris, died.
- John of Gaddesden.
1349. John Ardern, Surgeon, with Edward III. at the Battle of Crecy.
1365. This year all Corporations in London began, Adam Berry being Major.
1376. It was ordered, that Corporations should be governed by a Master, and two Wardens.
1410. A deed granted from Henry IV. to Master Helias Sabert, a Jew Doctor of Medicine from Boleyne la Crase, being a safe conduct for two years, 17th December, 1410, with ten men servants. *Rymer. Fæd.* tom. viii. 667.
- A compotus of Bolton Abbey, about this period, makes the physician's fee for visiting one of the canons 6s. 1d. (probably from York). One Ricardus Apothecarius made up the medicines. *Whitaker's Hist. of Craven*, p. 344.
1415. Thomas Morstede, Surgeon to Henry V. attends him in his invasion of France.

Anno.

1422. Henry VI. had two Surgeons appointed by Council during his illness: Robert Warren and John Marshall. At this time, surgery was distinct from medicine, though united to the occupation of the barber.
1426. A counterfeit physician's head set on the Tower of London. *Stow.*
1437. John de Lastie defines the exact duty of physicians and surgeons to an establishment belonging to the Order of Templars. This is the earliest notice of physicians and surgeons, as officers of an establishment for sick persons.
1450. Teige, son of Joseph O'Cassidy of Coole, physician to the Princes of Fermanah.
1456. Licences granted for composing the "Elixir of Life."
1461. Barber Surgeons incorporated. The office of Serjeant Surgeon instituted: William Hobbys appointed with a salary of forty marks per annum.
1474. Lithotomy first attempted in Paris.
1483. The Sweating Sickness.



Anno.

1484.     Apothecaries in France received their statutes from Charles VIII.
1485.     Sweating Sickness.
- The Lord Mayor and five aldermen died of the Sweating Sickness.
1490.     Lanfranc, lays down a rule to distinguish the wound of an artery from that of a vein.
1494.     Lues—a proclamation on account of it.
1498.     Mercury introduced as a specific.
1500.     Four Masters in Surgery appointed—stiled *Magistri sive Gubernatores mistere Barbitonsonum et Sirurgicorum*.
1506.     Barber-Surgeons, of Edinburgh, incorporated by a charter from James IV.
- Sweating Sickness.
1512.     Incorporation of the Surgeons.
1517.     Sweating Sickness.
1518.     College of Physicians founded.
1524.     Linacre died.

Anno.

1528. Sweating Sickness.
1530. Scurvy first appeared in Denmark.
1531. Thomas Viccary, Master of the Barber-Surgeons' Company. John Ayliffe, Warden. They are both represented in Holbein's celebrated picture. Viccary is the first in the list of Barber-Surgeons, with the denomination of SURGEON, and was Surgeon to the King.
1538. Parish Registers first proposed.
1540. First law for promoting Anatomical knowledge.
1547. "Brevarie of Health," by Andrew Borde.
1550. St. Bartholomew's Hospital founded.
1551. The last Sweating Sickness.
1552. Sick people taken into the hospital of St. Thomas, Southwark. *Stow's Chronicle*.
1553. A difference between the University of Oxford and the College of Physicians, concerning the admission of an illiterate person. The University, by the desire of Cardinal Pole, consult Dr. Owen and Dr. Huys, de instituentis rationibus quibus Oxoniensis Academia in admittendis Medicis, uteretur.

Anno.

1553. Taliacotius died.
1556. Died, Dr. Richard Bartlet in the eighty-seventh year of his age. At his funeral, the President and College of Physicians in London attended, it being the first time that the statute book of the College, adorned with silver, was carried before the President. *Ath. Ox. Fasti.* vol. ii. 25.
1558. The first invention of Short-hand writing, by Timothe Brighte, Doctor of Physike.
1559. An order issued that Parish Registers should be kept in Parchment books.
1560. Snuff first taken by Catherine de Medici, and called *herbe à la reine*.
1563. Dr. Wm. Cuninghame Lectured at Surgeons' Hall.
1564. Richard Ferris, Serjeant Surgeon to Queen Elizabeth.
- Vessalius died.
1566. The United Company pass a bye-law, "that no private anatomy should be dissected out of the hall, under the penalty of ten pounds."



Anno.

1571. Controversy between the physicians and surgeons, concerning the Surgeons administering internal Medicines.
1573. William Clowes, Surgeon in London.
1575. At this time, the College of Physicians had persons whom they called “ Strangers of the College.”—Licentiate unknown.
1576. Blisters introduced in Italy.
1577. Black Assize at Oxford. “ A short censure by Thomas Cogan ” gives an account of it.
- 1583 } “ Monday, Feb. 20.—A man hanged for  
or 4. } felony at St. Thomas Wavering’s; being begged by the Chirurgeons of London, to have made of him an anatomy, after he was dead to all men’s thinking, cut down, stripped, laid naked in a chest, thrown in a car, so brought from the place of execution through the Borough of Southwark and City of London, to the Chirurgeons’ Hall, near unto Aldersgate; the chest being there opened, and the weather extremely cold, he was found to be alive, and lived till the day next following, and then died.” *Stow’s Chronicle*, p. 409.

— Tobacco first brought to England.

Anno.

1584. Lord Lumley, and Dr. Richard Caldwell, founded a Surgical Lecture, to be read at the College of Physicians on the 6th of May; the reader thereof to be a Doctor of Physic.

1586. Thomas Gale, Surgeon in London.

1588. Strange sickness at Exeter Assizes, of which the judge, and some of the jury, and others, died.

— John Ardern, translated by Reade.

1589. John Woodall, Surgeon, sent by Queen Elizabeth with the troops to France.

1590. Dispute among the Italian physicians on the virtues of Blisters in a Plague.

— Ambrose Parè died.

1596. Dr. Matthew Gwynne chosen first Professor of Medicine at Gresham College.

— William Clowes publishes the first treatise on the Lues in English.

— Dr. Paddy chosen first “Reader of the Anathomy Lecture, at Barber-Surgeons’ Hall.”

Anno.

1600. Botany formed into a regular Science by Prosper Alpinus.
1603. The Plague.
- Dr. William Gilbert died.
1604. The Bills of Mortality in London commenced.
1606. Roman Catholics were prohibited in England by statute “from practising physic, or exercising the trade of Apothecaries.”
1609. Dr. Gwynn succeeds Dr. Paddy as “Reader of the Anathomy Lecture.”
1617. Society of Apothecaries made independent, by act, or letters patent, 15th of James I.
1618. Pharmacopœia first published by the College of Physicians.
- Empiricks and Quacks taken up in the City of London.
1622. The Lacteal Vessels discovered.
1625. The Plague destroys 35,000 persons.
- Astrological Practice in fashion.



Anno.

1626. John Woodall, surgeon to St. Bartholomew's Hospital, has the charge of superintending the Chirurgical part of His Majesty's service. He invented the Trephine.

1628. Harvey publishes his discovery of the Circulation, dedicated to Charles I.

1629. On the death of Dr. Gwynn, the Company ordered that the "Ancientest master, Mr. Richard Mapes, should read the lectures, and so after, every surgeon in his antiquity and degree in the Company." *Minutes of the Company.*

1630. The last case of the test of guilt—by the appearances assumed by the dead body on the presence of the murderer, in which many strange appearances were sworn to by the clergy, and others.

1632. Dr. Goulston leaves £200. by his will, to endow a pathological lecture at the College of Physicians. Dr. Simeon Fox being at this time President.

—— Physic Garden at Oxford established.

1633. Herborizing Walks first instituted by the Apothecaries.

Anno.

1636. The Plague.

1638. Tobias Venner—writes on Bristol Water.

— William Clowes, Serjeant-Surgeon to His Majesty, Master of the Company.

1642. About this time, many Military men were created Doctors of Medicine at Oxford.

1643. The body of Pym opened in the presence of the President of the College of Physicians, Dr. Meverell, Sir Theodore Mayerne, and five other doctors—by Chirurgeon Allen, and *Henry Axtall his Servant. Ath. Ox. v. iii. 80.*1645. Sedans introduced by Sir Saunders Duncombe. M.D. *Evelyn, v. i. 149.*

— Mr, Edward Arris paid £300. for the Company to establish an annual “ public Anatomy.”

1647. Dr. Goddard, Anatomical Lecturer at the College of Physicians.

1649. Dr. Scarborough, elected by the Barber-Surgeons to read the Anatomical lectures; and Surgery lectures revived, according to ancient practice.

Anno.

1650. Glisson publishes on Rickets.

—— Phlebotomy greatly in fashion.

1654. Pecquet publishes his Anatomical Discoveries; and Bartholini publishes on the Lacteal Vessels.

1655. Dr. Winston died, who, with Dr. Simeon Fox, and Dr. Argent, were the last physicians who visited patients on horseback.

—— “ Arth. Tillyard, apothecary and great royalist, sold coffey publickly in his house against All Soul’s Coll.—and two years afterwards at the Exchange, London. *Ath. Ox.* v. i. 25.—— Dr. Paul de Laune, an elect of the College of Physicians, went to America, being then seventy years old, and was with the Fleet at the taking of Jamaica—being Physician General by Oliver Cromwell’s appointment. *Coll. Annals*, lib. iv. p. 79.1657. Dr. William Harvey, died June 3, aged 80. The following entry appears in the college records:—“ Comitia solemnia trimestria, 25 Junii, 1657. Monentur Socii, ut togati prosequi velint exequias funeris D<sup>ris</sup>. Harvæi postero die celebrandas.”



Anno.

1657. An excellent drink called Chocolate; sold in Bishopsgate Street; also the drink called Coffee. Tea began to be sold by Garway, in Exchange Alley.

1658. Scurvy grass drink began to be taken as physick-drink in the morning.

— “The Feaver Bark, commonly called the Jesuits’ Powder, brought over by James Thompson, merchant of Antwerp, is to be had,” &c. *Mercurius Politicus*, Feb. 3, 10, 1659.

1660. The Royal Society founded.

1662. Moxa, recommended as a remedy for the Gout, by Van Roonhuyse.

1663. Chemical Club at Oxford.

— Greatorox, the Rubber, in London.

1665. The Great Plague.

— Richard Wiseman, King’s Serjeant-Surgeon, Master of the Barber-Surgeons.

— Transfusion of Blood

— Advertisement from the Society of Chymical

Anno.

Physicians for the prevention of the Plague.  
Fol. hf. sh. Lond. 1665. *In the library of the  
Royal College of Physicians.*

1666. Fire of London.

1670. The College of Physicians in Warwick Lane,  
begun to be built.

1671. Chemical Laboratory at Apothecaries' Hall  
erected.

— The Abdomen injected with Claret to cure  
Dropsy.

1672. A Stomach-brush invented by Dr. Ramesay.

1673. The Botanic Garden at Chelsea, granted on  
lease to the Apothecaries by C. Cheyne.

1674. Dr. Jonathan Goddard, an Elect of the Col-  
lege, and Physician to Oliver Cromwell, died.

— The College of Physicians in Warwick Lane  
opened—Sir George Ent, President.

— King Charles II. writes to the College,  
desiring them to admit no person as a fellow,  
who had not graduated at one of the Univer-  
sities. *MSS. Sloane, 3299.*

Anno.

1675. "Medela Medicina," published by Dr. Needham, the author of the first Newspaper.
1676. Dr. Baldwin Hamsey died.
1677. Dr. Francis Glisson died.
1679. Chambre de Poison, instituted at Paris, dissolved at the end of a year, being nothing more than a political inquisition.
1680. Marquis of Dorchester made a Fellow of the College of Physicians.
- The Electoral Prince Charles, Count Palatine of the Rhine, created Doctor of Medicine at Oxford.
1681. Sir Thomas Baynes, Bart. M. D. died.
1682. Sir Thomas Browne, Kt. died.
- The King touched 8577 persons.
- Chirurgical Lectures given at the College of Physicians.
1684. Thomas Rosewell tried for high treason, for speaking contemptuously of the Royal Touch.
1689. Sir George Ent, Knt. died, aged 87.



Anno.

1689. Dr. Radcliffe attends King William, at Kensington.

—— Dr. Thomas Sydenham died.

1690. Dr. Richard Lower died.

1691. The King's and Queen's College of Physicians incorporated in Dublin.

1693. Dr. Grœnvelt cited before the College for prescribing Cantharides in substance, and committed to Newgate by a warrant from the President; but afterwards acquitted, upon the plea *that bad practice must be accompanied with a bad intention, to render it criminal*.

—— A remarkable *Double Diploma* given to Dr. Silvester by the College, making him *Fellow* and *Licentiate*.

—— Sir Charles Scarborough, died.

1695. Charter, granted by William and Mary, to the Surgeons of Edinburgh.

1697. Frere Jaques cuts for the Stone in Paris.

1698. Peter the Great visits the Hospitals in London.

Anno.

1698. Dr. Francis Bernard's Library sold by auction for £16,000!

— Ordered that there be an Anatomy Lecture, called "Gale's Anathomy." *Minutes of the Company.*

1700. Mr. Proby performs the high operation to extract a bodkin from the urinary bladder.

1701. Sanctorius explains the importance of insensible perspiration.

1703. Dr. Mead appointed to read Lectures at Surgeon's Hall.

— Sir Thomas Millington, Physician to Queen Anne, and President of the College, died. He was one of the founders of the Royal Society.

1706. Dr. James Drake died of a fever. A note in the Annals of the College, after stating the fact, continues—that he was "a gentleman of very pregnant parts and good learning, as appears by the writings he has left behind him, and deserving a much better treatment from the great world, than he met with in it."

1707. Sir John Floyer first recommends counting the pulsations.

Anno.

1707. “ April 24, 1707, that great ornament of our College and Faculty, Dr. Walter Charlton departed this life, after a long tedious disease, in the 87th year of his age.” *Coll. Annal.* lib. vii. p. 248.
1708. Died, Dr. Edward Tyson, famous for his skill in Anatomy. *Coll. Annal.* lib. vii. p. 265.
1711. Cheselden lectures at the age of twenty-two, and prints a Syllabus of them.
- The fine Library of Charles Bernard, the Serjeant Surgeon, sold. “ The Spaccio della Bestia Triomphante,” alluded to in the Spectator, No. 389, was in this Collection.
1712. Dr. Charles Goodall, President of the College, died.
1713. Inoculation for Small-pox practised at Constantinople.
1714. Radcliffe died.
1718. Lancisi publishes the process of making Magnesia.
- Heister’s System of Surgery.
- Mahogany wood first introduced by Dr. Gibbons.



Anno.

1718. Sir Samuel Garth died.

—— Mathematics and Mechanics applied to Medicine.

1719. Douglas publishes on the High Operation for the Stone.

—— Mr. Secretary Craggs applies to Dr. Mead for the most effectual method of preventing the Plague.

—— Gideon Harvey elected “Medicus Regius ad Turrim.”

1720. The French government purchase the secret of Pulvis Carthusianum, or Chermes Mineral.

1721. Controversy on the Plague.

1722. Dr. Freind elected Member of Parliament, and sent to the Tower.

—— Sir Hans Sloane gave the Botanic Garden at Chelsea to the Apothecaries, in perpetuity.

—— Remarkable instance of SECOND INFECTION of Small-pox, by Dr. Jurin. *Ph. Trans.*

—— Inoculation introduced by Lady Mary Wortley Montague.

Anno.

1722. Princess Amelia and Princess Caroline inoculated for Small-pox.
1723. Statue to Radcliff voted at Oxford.
- Cheselden on the High Operation for the Stone.
1724. Lewis I. King of Spain died of Small-pox. Also, the Duchess of Bedford
1725. Dr. F. Nicholls, at a meeting of the Royal Society, gave a new opinion of the nature of Aneurisms.
- Dr. Freind's History of Physic.
1726. Mead and Cheselden attend Sir Isaac Newton.
1727. Inoculation first tried on criminals.
1728. Dame Mary Page died, having been tapped 66 times in 67 months, and 240 gallons of water taken away. Mead proposed pressure on the abdomen, and bandage to prevent fainting.
- Dr. Frank Nicholls's Lectures on Anatomy.
1729. Cheselden gives Sight to a boy born blind.

Anno.

1730. Mr. Nourse's Lectures on Anatomy at London House, Aldersgate Street. Here Mr. Pott acquired his anatomical education.
1731. The Royal Academy of Surgery in Paris opened.
1732. 1500 persons died of Fever, in London, in one week. April.
- Edinburgh Medical Essays published.
- Cheselden elected the first corresponding member of the Academie Royale de Chirurgie, Paris.
1733. Inoculation at Haverford West.
- Mr. Paul, a Surgeon at Stroud in Gloucestershire, lately extracted from the kidneys of a woman, by an incision through her back, a rough stone as large as a pigeon's egg, and made an entire cure; it is the first of the kind ever performed in this kingdom. *Gents. Mag.* Aug. 1733.
- St. George's Hospital founded.
- Samuel Sharp publishes his Operations of Surgery.



Anno.

1734. Quicksilver Controversy.

—— Baron Carlsum, Secretary of State to the King of Poland, arrives in London to be cut for the stone, by Mr. Cheselden.

1735. Ward's Pill and Drop in high vogue.

1736. Mrs. Mapp the bone-setter, came to the Grecian Coffee House once a week in her coach and four, from Epsom.

—— Experiments with Madder Root.

1737. Radcliff Library, Oxford, built.

1738. Sir Ed. Hulse created Baronet.

1739. Mrs. Stephens receives £5,000. from Parliament for communicating the secret of her Solvent.

—— Bromfield Lectures on Surgery and Anatomy.

1740. King George II. used to make a great number of Doctors of Physic when he went to New Market; these, by way of joke, were called "Jockey Doctors." Qu? can any medical man be quoted, who styled himself M.D. created in this manner.

Anno.

1740. Many fellows of the College formerly practised Midwifery, as Nesbitt, Bamber, Merley, and others.

—— Albinus, folio plates of the Muscles.

—— Hawkins invents the Cutting Gorget.

—— The London Hospital founded.

1741. Le Cat writes on Lithotomy.

1743. Memoirs of the French Academy of Surgery.

1744. Joh<sup>n</sup>. Medley, master, and Jos. Sandford, Hum<sup>y</sup>. Negus. and Wm. CHESELDEN, wardens of the Barber-Surgeons.

—— Mr. W. Bromfield elected Anatomical Demonstrator.

—— Tar-water cures every thing.

—— Armstrong's " Art of preserving Health."

—— Percival Pott elected Assistant Surgeon to St. Bartholomew's Hospital.

1745. Separation of the SURGEONS and BARBERS.

—— Warner and Cowell, afterwards Surgeons to

Anno.

St. Thomas's Hospital, volunteered to serve with the Duke of Cumberland.

1745. Distemper among horned cattle.

—— Lock Hospital founded by Bromfield

—— Dr. Patrick Blair sentenced to death as a rebel.

1746. Proceedings between Dr. Shomberg and the College of Physicians commenced, and continued till 1753.

—— Dr. William Hunter, a Member of the Corporation of Surgeons, commenced lecturing to a Society of Navy Surgeons, as successor to Mr. Sharp.

—— Sir William Watson exhibits experiments with the newly-invented Leyden Phial.

—— July 3.—The Members of the Corporation of Surgeons invited to dine with the Court of Assistants.

1748. Frère Côme invents the Lithotome Cachée.

1749. Died, His Grace John Duke of Montagu, Fellow of the College of Physicians.



Anno.

1749. Radcliffe Library, Oxford, opened with great solemnity. Degree of M. D. conferred on Wm. Pitcairn.

—— Dr. Addington refuses to consult with a Licentiate.

—— Was tried in the Common Pleas, an action of trover against an eminent Man-midwife, for taking away, after he had delivered a woman, two female dead infants, wonderfully joined together by the bellies; after a long hearing, the jury being withdrawn, it was agreed that the doctor should return the infants to the father, the plaintiff. *Gents. Magazine*, Dec. 1749, p. 568.

1750. Aug. 8.—Died, His Grace Charles Duke of Richmond, Fellow of the College of Physicians.

—— A Society of Navy Surgeons formed.

—— Dr. James's Fever Powder in great repute.

1751. Dr. Wall of Worcester first publicly recommends bark for the Malignant Sore Throat.

1752. "A Lecture on Hearts," read by Dr. James Silas Dodd, at Exeter 'Change.

1753. Inoculation at Salisbury.

Anno.

1754. Dr. Mead died, aged 81.

1755. The Middlesex Hospital founded.

—— Dr. Hunter demonstrated the Hernia longenita.

—— Agaric proposed by Mon<sup>s</sup>. Fagel in Paris ; and Mr. Warner in London.

1758. Dr. Florence Hensey found guilty of Treason.

—— Chirurgical dispute between Bromfield and Aylett, of Windsor.

1759. Richard Guy, surgeon in London, purchased Plunkett's remedy for Cancer.

—— Dr. Stork recommends Cicuta.

1760. The Plague reported to be in London.

—— Gataker Lectures at Surgeon's Hall.

—— Morgagni, De Sedibus ex causis Morborum ; and Pott's Work on the Head, published.

1763. Dr. Heberden, and Surgeon Hawkins, ordered by the House of Commons to attend Mr. Wilkes.

Anno.

1766. Aug. 22. A general meeting of the members of the Corporation of Surgeons.

1767. Small Pox Hospital opened.

—— Sep. 30. At the anniversary of the College of Physicians, the licentiates demanded admittance, which was not complied with. A smith was offered ten guineas, and an indemnification of £300. to force the gates, which he refused.

1769. Morgagni translated by Dr. Alexander.

1770. Radcliffe Infirmary, at Oxford, opened for patients.

1773. John Hunter began to lecture.

—— Medical Society, Bolt Court, instituted.

1776. Société Royale de Medicine, Paris, founded.

—— The celebrated John Brown elected President of the Medical Society of Edinburgh, and afterwards institutes a Lodge of Freemasons, called the Roman Eagle.

1777. Died, Haller and Linnæus.

1779. Chambre de Poison, for punishing Poisoners, established in Paris.

Anno.

1779. A proposal for establishing a Medical Society as a Joint Stock Company for the benefit of subscribers. A sort of *wholesale warehouse*, where health was to be had a *penny-worth*.

1784. Nov. 4.—The last General Meeting of the Members of the Corporation of Surgeons.

1785. John Hunter established the Lyceum Medicum Londinense.

— Operation for the Poplitical Aneurism, first done by Hunter.

1796. July 1st, Thursday. A Court held at Surgeons' Hall without a sufficient Quorum.

1798. Jenner first promulgates VACCINATION.

1799. Hunterian Museum bought by Parliament, for the use of the Surgeons of London.

1800. Charter granted to the Royal College of Surgeons.



# **MEMORABILIA.**



## MEMORABILIA.

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A. D. 1070.

THE numerous institutions for the reception of the indigent and sick, which do so much honour to this country, were first introduced by the professors of christianity.

The most extensive institution of this kind in Europe, is said to be the public hospital at Milan. It is endowed with land, which produces a yearly revenue of £70,000. sterling, and there are continually additional benefactions, to promote which one incentive is held out, which has been found to have the most beneficial influence; he who bequeaths a hundred thousand francs, has his whole-length portrait painted at the expense of the charity, and those who bequeath half that sum, have their portraits painted in half-length, which are exhibited to the public on certain grand festivals. Thus the

trustees have well calculated upon those passions which so often set reason at defiance; and have found that men, unjust to themselves, are often generous to posterity; and vain to be well thought of for those qualities for which, when alive, they would not pay the fraction of a farthing.

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1087.

At this early period, the practice of medicine was entirely in the hands of the clergy. Thus we find William the Conqueror, attended by a bishop and an abbot. Deficiency in medical skill, was compensated by other qualifications of these reverend persons. Among other duties, besides saying grace, they had to superintend the royal banquets; of which we have a singular instance in King Henry the First, who being desirous to eat of a lamprey, which was brought to the table, was warned by his physician to forbear, because it was very unwholesome for him; these are the words of the poet :

“ He wylled of a lampreye to eate,  
But his lechis hym verbyd, vor it was a feeble meete.”

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1163.

From the following lines of a contemporary bard, it is clear, that although so little professional skill



existed, yet distinct bounds were then fixed to the provinces of the physician and surgeon.

Interea regem circumstant undique mixtem;  
Apponunt medici fomenta, secantque: chirurgi  
Vulnus, ut inde trahant ferrum minore periclo.

Meanwhile, in mingled throng to aid the king,  
The healing tribe their various succours bring,  
Warm fomentations the physician's art  
Applies.—The surgeon then, with wholesome smart,  
Makes deep incisions to extract the dart.

*Rech. de Pasquier.*

The division of these practitioners, at so early a period, probably originated partly from ecclesiastical restraints, prohibiting the clergy from practising particular branches, which seemed discordant to their holy profession, or which required any long absence from their sacred duties.

## MEDICAL BOOKS.

The earliest medical work written in *English*, is supposed to have been Andrew Borde's "Breviarie of Health." It must, however, yield its pretensions to a much older work, the "Breviary of Practice," by Bartholomew Glanville, a manuscript of which is preserved in the Harleian collection. The one title evidently being an imitation of the other.

Previously to this period, our English medical writers were chiefly known by their christian names, as Richardus Anglicus, Gulielmus Medicus, Alphredus Anglicus, John of Gaddesden, and John of Ardern.

It is said, that Alfred the great had many medical works translated into the Saxon language, and that a copy of Apuleius, in Saxon, was in the Bodleian Library; but in a late visit to Oxford, my learned friend, Dr. Philip Bliss, informed me that they have it not, and probably never had it.

There are many books said to have been written, that may never have existed, or never have been trusted out of the safe keeping of their parents. I will mention some, of which we have no true account, and which are not noticed in medical history.

De Herbarum viribus, by Josina, King of Scotland.

Herbal of British Plants, by Scribonius Largus, who attended the Emperor Claudius.

De Re Medicâ et Prognosticis, by John Giles, a native of St. Albans, and physician to King Philip of France.

De Simplicibus Medicamentis, by Wm. de Holme, surgeon to Edward III.

De Virtutibus Aquarum, by Richard Kennet of Oxford, about 1390.

De Mortu Cordis, by Alphredus Anglicus. He is mentioned with great respect by Bacon, Leland, and others.

De Febribus, and Speculum Alchymiaë, by Richardus Anglicus, about 1247.

De Urinâ non Visâ, by Gulielmus Anglicus, supposed to be William Grisaunt.

De Prognosticis Aeris, and Regimen contra Pestilentiam, by John Estwoode, or Ashenton.

De Proprietatis Rerum, by Bartholomew Glanville. He is mentioned by John de Gaddesden.

One of the first of our English writers, is John of Gaddesden, whose "*Rosa Anglica*," was greatly esteemed, and he is favourably mentioned by Chaucer. John was a man to whom nothing came amiss; he had an anodyne necklace for fits, and an infallible cataplasm for gout; he was a dextrous bone-setter, and a good dentist. He was very assiduous in inventing lotions for ladies' complexions; and was complaisant enough to cut their corns; and as for those troublesome animalcules, which, in those days, used to infest *gentlemen's* heads, he had a most effectual method of destroying them; and in his celebrated book, he favours us with a whimsical cure for small-pox.—"Immediately after the eruption, cause the whole body of your patient to be wrapped in red scarlet cloth, or in any other red cloth, and command every thing about the bed to be made red. This is an excellent cure. It was in this manner I treated the son of the noble King of England, when he had the small-pox; and I cured him, without leaving any marks."

Such was our countryman, JOHN of GADDESSEN, who deserves notice, moreover, as being the first English surgeon employed at court; and that the King (Edward III.) wrote a letter to the Pope in favour of him.

Not long after JOHN of GADDESSEN, comes JOHN ARDERN, celebrated by being present, in his surgical capacity, at the battle of Crecy, when the



Black Prince took from the old King of Bohemia his arms, being three OSTRICH FEATHERS, which have ever since been borne by succeeding Princes of Wales.

He left behind him many surgical writings, which still exist among us in manuscript. They are scarce as well as curious. A copy of his largest work was in the library of Dr. Mead; there is one in the British Museum; and there is a copy, which belonged to Queen Mary, (1556) now in the library of Mr. Towers, of Essex.

These manuscripts, though they are more ludicrous than luminous, are extremely well worth the attention of the surgical antiquary, from the numerous illustrations they contain, of the mode and manner in which Ardern performed his operations; which, considering that he was an *improver* of surgery, gives us a glorious notion of what the art was previously to JOHN's refinements, or those of Roger Franks, whom he mentions with great praise.

A treatise by Ardern, on Fistula, was translated by Read, in 1588; but we may judge of its contents, when we are told, “notandum est quod fistula non debet curari sed paliari.”

## F E E S.

Three faces wears the doctor; when first sought  
An angel's—and a god's the cure half wrought:  
But, when that cure complete he seeks his fee,  
The devil looks then less terrible than he.

“ This epigram of Cordus is illustrated by a conversation which passed between Bouvart and a French Marquis, whom he had attended during a long and severe indisposition. As he entered the chamber on a certain occasion, he was thus addressed by his patient: “ Good day to you, Mr. Bouvart, I feel quite in spirits, and think my fever has left me.” “ I am sure of it,” replied the doctor, “ the very first expression you used convinces me of it.” “ Pray explain yourself.” “ Nothing more easy; in the first days of your illness, when your life was in danger, I was your *dearest friend*; as you began to get better, I was your *good Bouvart*; and now I am Mr. Bouvart; depend upon it you are quite recovered.”

“ Bouvart's observation was grounded on a knowledge of human nature; every day's experience shews, that “ *accipe dum dolet* ” should be the medical man's motto, particularly the more laborious branches of the profession, whose remuneration comes when the impressions of fear, hope, and gratitude are almost effaced, and who are then often

paid with indifference, hesitation, reluctance, and reproach." *Nugæ Chirurgicæ*.

It is a fact, not less singular than true, that the advancement of surgical science, is a benefit conferred on society, at the expense of the scientific practitioner, since in proportion as the mode of cure is "tuto et celeriter" safe and speedy, remuneration is diminished. Perhaps, in no instance is this better exemplified, than in the operation of the hydrocele, introduced by my late friend and master Sir James Earle. Compare the simplicity, safety, and celerity of this, with the bustle and bloody brutality of the old system! The business of six weeks, reduced to as many days; but mark the consequence, quasi honorarium; does the patient increase the fee, for the pain and misery he is spared? Not a bit of it. Here is little or no *work done*—no trouble to the doctor—no pain to the patient; therefore, nothing to pay for. Reverse the picture, and let an ignorant blunderer be six weeks remedying the effect of his own mischief, or what is more probable, when nature, triumphing over bad practice, restores the patient—see what gratulations and gratuities flow to the great Apollo! Seldon, who understood these failings in mankind vastly well, gives them a sly hit in his "Table Talk" (*Damnation*.) "If," says he, "a man had a sore leg, and he should go to an honest judicious surgeon, and he should only bid him keep it warm, and anoint it with such an oil, (an oil well known,)



that would do the cure, haply he would not much regard him, because he knows the medicine before hand, an ordinary medicine. But if he should go to a surgeon, that should tell him your leg will gangrene within three days, and it must be cut off, and you will die unless you do something that I could tell you, what listening there would be to this man! Oh! for the Lord's sake, tell me what this is, I will give you any content for your pains."

Much curious material might be collected illustrative of *individual* and *national* notions, both in ancient and modern times, as to the quantum meruit," or honorarium to professional men.

The Chinese proceed on the principle of "no cure no pay," the termination of the case, therefore, decides the fee; except in court practice, where a very effectual method is taken of stimulating professional skill, by stopping the salary during a royal indisposition.

In Portugal, it is no uncommon thing to pay the doctor by presenting him his own portrait. Mr. T. an English surgeon, who cured a servant of the royal family of a dangerous wound in the abdomen, was rewarded by having his picture hung up in Lapa church, standing by the patient's bed, with the Virgin Mary above, who had enabled him to perform the cure. (*Southey's Spain*). Occasionally, however, the faculty have met with rougher treat-



ment: thus Austrigilda, wife of Gontram, King of Burgundy, had, in compliance with her dying request, her two physicians slain, and buried with her. These were probably the only two medical gentlemen who were ever privileged to lie in the tombs of kings. On the other hand, on the death of Pope Adrian, the night after his decease, the door of his chief physician was ornamented with garlands, with the inscription, “To the deliverer of his country.”

The following are some of the most ancient fees on record.

Erasistratus had sixty thousand crowns from Seleucus for discovering the disorder of his son Antiochus.

Alcon, celebrated by Martial for his dexterity in curing hernias by incision, was no less nobly remunerated by the public, who repaid him in the course of a few years practice, ten millions of sesterces, which he had lost by a law suit.

Aruntius, Calpetanus, Rubrius, and Albutius, for their attendance on the Emperor Augustus, and his two immediate successors, had each an annual salary of two hundred and fifty thousand sesterces, equal to two thousand pounds of English money.

Petrus Aponensis, a physician of Padua, in the

thirteenth century, we find refusing to go out of the town to see a patient, under one hundred and fifty francs a day. When sent for to Pope Honorarius IV., he demanded four hundred ducats a day. (*Vander Linden de Scriptoribus Medicis.*)

The mode and manner of remunerating medical services in the early periods of our own country, we may learn from the following items.

1345. Edward III. granted a pension of sixpence a day to his apothecary, Coursus de Gungeland. And “Ricardus Wye, Chirurgicus, habet duodecim denarios per diem et octo marcas per annum, pro vadiis suis pro vita.”

Pet. 45. Ed. III. “Quod Willielmus Holme Sirurgicus Regis pro vita sua possit, fugare, capere, et asportare omnimodas feras in quibus cunque forestis, chaccis, parcis et warrennis regis.”

In the court of the Kings of Wales, the physician, or surgeon, was the twelfth person in rank, and appears to have had by law certain established fees. For curing a flesh-wound that was not dangerous, he was allowed no other perquisite than such of the garments of the wounded person as were stained with blood; but for curing any of the three dangerous or mortal wounds, he was allowed a fee of one hundred and eighty pence, and his maintenance, besides the blood-stained garments.

Among the expences of the Earl of Cumberland, in the seventeenth year of Henry VIII., we have “Item, in a reward paid by my Lord to a physician of Cambridge, the 17th of June, £1.” “Item to a physician at Westminster, for seying my Lord’s water ivd.” *Whitaker’s Craven*, p. 233.

In Burn’s History of Westmorland, vol. 1, p. 99, is a curious indenture, between Sir Walter Strickland, Knt., and a Doctor of Physic, who was to have £20. to cure him of an asthma.—18th year of Henry VIII.

Our physicians, says Stow, are allowed to be men of skill in their profession, and well versed in other parts of learning. We do not often suffer by their ignorance; but the great grievance here is, that the inferior people are undone by the exorbitance of their fees. Half a crown is looked upon as a great fee in Holland. A physician scorns to touch any metal but gold with us, and our surgeons are still more unreasonable. *Stow*, vol. ii. p. 558.

In a book, called “*Levamen Infirmi*,” the usual fees to physicians and chirurgeons at that time, (1700) are thus stated:—“To a graduate in physick, his due is about ten shillings, though he commonly expects or demands twenty. Those that are only licensed physicians, their due is no more than six shillings and eight-pence, though they commonly demand ten shillings. A surgeon’s fee is twelve-



pence a mile, be his journey far or near; ten groats to set a bone broke, or out of joint; and for letting blood one shilling; the cutting off, or amputation, of any limb, is five pounds; but there is no settled price for the cure."

In modern times, (1737,) we find the physicians who attended Queen Caroline, had five hundred guineas, and the surgeons three hundred guineas each.

Dr. Willis, for his successful attendance on His Majesty King George III., was rewarded by £ 1500. per annum, for twenty years, and £ 650. per annum to his son, for life. The other physicians had thirty guineas each visit to Windsor, and ten guineas each visit to Kew.

Baron Dimsdale, for his inoculation of the Empress of Russia, and her son, was made a Baron of the empire, with a present of £ 12,000., and a pension of £ 500. per annum.

Sir Theodore Mayerne, who got an immense sum by his practice, was once consulted by a friend, who laid two broad pieces of gold upon the table, (six and thirties) and Sir Theodore put them into his pocket. The friend was hurt at his pocketing such a fee, but Sir Theodore said to him, "I made my will this morning, and if it should appear that I had refused a fee, I might be deemed *non compos*. The



late Mr. Martin, the surgeon, knew a modern doctor who improved this practical joke. When he was a young man, he sometimes went to Dr. Meyer Schomberg's, who was much resorted to. Martin was shewn in to him one morning, while he had a patient with him; when the patient was gone, Martin observed two guineas lying on the table; he asked the doctor how he happened to leave his money about in that manner? I always have a couple of guineas before me," said the Doctor, "as an example, or broad hint, what they ought to give."

I shall further illustrate this subject by two facts, from some private anecdotes of Dr. William Hunter. He attended Mrs. Elliott, wife of the Colonel, afterwards Governor of Gibraltar. The lady, though not very handsome, was a very agreeable woman, and her husband was excessively fond of her. After her death, (for she died in this illness) the Colonel sent his brother, Mr. William Elliott, to the Doctor with a paper, enclosing a bank note; the Doctor expected to find it a twenty pound note, and was astonished at finding it one hundred pounds! The sum was greater than he thought he could, with propriety, take from an officer, neither of very high rank, nor of large fortune; this he told to the brother, begged to return it, and said that fifty pounds would certainly be overpaying him. The brother, after a little hesitation, assured him that he knew the Colonel's

disposition so well, that he could not venture to carry it back; and so the Doctor took it.

As a contrast to this instance of liberality, Doctor Hunter mentioned a lady, who came with her mother in a carriage, at a time when he was confined to his bed with the gout, and was very anxious to consult him; the Doctor begged to be excused, but she pleaded that she had come on purpose out of the country, and after the servant had passed between them several times, she was admitted to his bedside, and there took off her stays, that he might examine a tumour below the scapula; the Doctor gave his opinion very fully on her case, and when she rose to go away, she begged to know what his fee was? he said, he made it a rule never to fix it; she intreated he would, and he as obstinately refused, so dropping a curtesy, she thanked him very kindly, and walked off!

Turner, in his history of Providences, tells us that Dr. John Bathurst kept his Lord's-day's fees as a bank for the poor, which was so far from lessening his income, that, "by the blessing of God upon his practice, it was, in a few years, greatly augmented by it." Nor is this the only instance of the kind. Some never take fees of the clergy; others have exempted all professional persons: but the truth is, a liberal mind will always be influenced by the condition of the patient; nor is there any profession in which liberality more abounds, or in which so much

gratuitous service, is rendered to suffering humanity, as in the honourable profession of medicine.

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1415.

Henry V. had only one principal surgeon with him when he invaded France, Thomas Morstede, who was afterwards surgeon to Henry VI. and compiled a book in chirurgery, not now to be found. This person was authorized to press as many surgeons as he thought necessary; and it appears from “Rymer’s Fœdera,” that with the army which won the day at Agincourt, there landed only *one surgeon*, the same Thomas Morstede, who did, indeed, engage *fifteen* in that capacity, who were to add a little fighting to their practice of surgery, and three of them acted as archers! He took into his service, also, Nicolas Colnet, as *field-surgeon* for one year. With such a medical staff, what must have been the state of the wounded after the day of battle? The pay was ten pounds quarterly, and twelve pennies daily for subsistence. Both Colnet and Morstede could receive prisoners and plunder; but when the latter amounted to more than twenty pounds in value, a third part of it was to be given to the King.



1422.

At this period, the King's surgeons were barbers, and his physicians priests, as the following curious order, from King Henry VI. to the Dean of Salisbury, will shew.

“ By the KING.

“ Trusty and welbeloved, we greet you wel.

“ And for as moche as we be occupied and laboured, as ye knowe wel, with sicknesse and infirmities, of the whiche to be delivered and cured, by the grace of our Lord, us nedeth the helpe, entendance, and laboure of suche expert, notable, and proved men in the crafte of medicines, as ye be, in whom, among alle other, our affection and desire righte especially is sette :

“ We desire, wille, and hertily pray you, that ye be with us, at oure castell of Wyndesore, the twelfth day of this moneth, and entende upon oure person for the cause abovsaid, and that ye faille not, as our singular trust is in you, and as ye desire and tendre of oure helth and welfare.

“ Yeven undre oure Prive Seel at Westm. the v. day of Juyn.

“ To Maister Gilbert Kemer, Dean of Salesbury.”

This worthy Dean, however, had some medical pretensions, having written a book “ *Dietarium de Santatis Custodia*,” 1424, which, curiously enough,



he dedicated to no less a person, than the celebrated “Duke Humphrey,” of Gloucester.

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1450.

Teige, son of Joseph O’Cassidy of Coole, was physician to the Maguires, Princes of Fermanagh, and wrote a treatise on medicine, a copy of which is in the possession of that distinguished Irish scholar, Edward O’Reilly, Esq. of Dublin.

About the same time, Donogh O’Bolgaidh, or Boulger, a physician, wrote some tracts on medicine, and transcribed the works of others. A large book, containing near 500 pages, beautifully written on vellum in O’Bolgai’s hand-writing, is in the possession of Mr. O’Reilly. By a memorandum at the end of one of the tracts contained in this book, which treats of the medicinal virtues of herbs, minerals, &c. it appears that it was first written at Mont-Pelier in France. The date of the transcript is then given in Irish characters, of which the following is a translation.

M.CCCC.LX.VI. the time this book was finished by Donogh O’Bolgaidh, (Boulger,) and the day was the feast of Saint Finian, and the moon was in the sign Aquarius, and four was the golden number of that year.

Besides the tract above mentioned, there are separate treatises upon the diseases of the head, and other members of the human body, in which many of the Arabian physicians are frequently quoted. Towards the end of the book, there is a translation of Aristotle's treatise "On the Nature of Matter;" but it does not appear whether O'Bolgai was the translator, or only the transcriber.

About the year 1700, lived Father Thomas O'Clery, parish priest of Kill Ann, in the county of Cavan; he was author of a poem, entitled a Receipt for the Gout, which consists of forty-four verses, beginning, "Aíthe dam do gálar." Thy disease is known to me.

The O'Cassilys, and the O'Cullinanes, cut a great figure in Irish history.

The family of the O'Cullinane's was never known without one or more physicians in it, which is remarked by Camden, insomuch, that when a person is given over, they have a saying in Irish, "even O'Cullinane cannot cure him."

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1456.

Dr. John Fauceby, (physician to Henry VI.) being a pretender to the occult sciences, obtained

at this period a commission from the king to discover the “*Elixir of Life*,” which was to cure all wounds and diseases, and to prolong human existence.

Licences for composing the “*Elixir of Life*,” and for *transubstantiating* (for such was the term) meaner metals into pure gold and silver, were now become common. Besides John Fauceby,—John Kirkeby, and John Rayny appeared in 1456; and some years afterwards, Rymer, vol. ii. p. 347, produces a permission to three other persons, to engage in the same enterprize.

Although these licences did not produce that infallible panacea of human infirmities, they were the means of discovering unknown qualities and modifications in the elements of nature. The experiments of Van Helmont led to an analysis of that complex fluid the air, and his gas sylvestre contains the first recorded notice of elastic vapours in aerial forms.

## BARBER-SURGEONS.

Edward the Fourth, in the year 1461, granted the charter of incorporation to barber-surgeons, and the barber and surgeon continued in the same firm for three centuries.

The barber was originally introduced to surgery by the priest, who was the chief practitioner of the dark ages. The barber, after shaving the head of the priest, was sometimes employed to shave the head of his patient, and finding these fellows handy with edge tools, they taught them to make salves, dress wounds, and bleed. Such was the origin of barber-surgery. In the fourteenth century, however, the barbers pushed themselves forward so much in the practice of surgery, that in France the legislature interfered; but the barbers' old friend, the priest, putting in a word for them, they were admitted into a newly formed surgical establishment, under the title of barber-surgeons; and the co-partnership, between surgery, and shaving, has existed in France and in England till very lately: nay, till so very near the present times was this foolery continued, that, "would heart of man e'er think it," says the philosophical and facetious Abernethy, "even I myself have doft my cap to barber-surgeons."

While this union of the surgeons and the barbers





ANCIENT MASTER OF SVRGRIE.

*Published August 1827 by Callow & Wilson London.*



continued, surgery retrograded;—in truth, surgery, while united with barbery, might fairly enough have been said, to have been *barbarous*; and a more curious proof of it cannot, perhaps, be given, than the following order, which appears in the minute books of the Court of Assistants, dated July the 13th, 1587, relative to the disposal of any subject, that might be daring enough to come to life, after being brought to the Hall for dissection.

“ Item. Yt ys agreed, that yf any bodie w<sup>c</sup> shall, at anie tyme here after, happen to be brought to o<sup>r</sup> Hall, for the intent to be whourght uppon by Thanathomistes of o<sup>r</sup> Companie, shall revyve or come to lyve agayne, as of late hathe ben seene, The charges aboute the same bodie, so revivinge, shal be borne, levied, and susteyned, by such Pson, or Psons, who shall so happen to bringe home the Bodie, And further shall abide suche order or Ffyne, as this House shall Award.”

Another proof might be found, in a bye-law, by which they levied ten pounds on any person who should dissect a body out of their Hall, without leave.

The prudent reign of Henry VII. produced a considerable alteration in the state of England, by the increase of the population, and a consequent increase in the number of artisans. In this reign, Lues first made its appearance, and produced the

most dreadful ravages. The necessity for surgeons, therefore, increased, and a few there were, who confined themselves entirely to that profession. These few were, in fact, ten in number, whose portraits have been handed down to us, in one of the finest efforts of Holbein's pencil, where these ten worthies are represented on their knees, before Henry VIII., who confirmed the Charter of the Surgeons of London. This celebrated painting is now in the possession of the Barbers, who gave one hundred and fifty guineas to Barron to engrave it: one hundred in money, and fifty, by subscription, for a hundred prints. It was once borrowed by King James I., and his letter on this occasion, asserts "that the portrait of the King was both like him, and well done."

The copartnership between barbers and surgeons, was not confined to the metropolis, but existed in different parts of the kingdom; and we find a branch of the fraternity at Newcastle, ordering (1742) that "no brother should shave on a Sunday;" and moreover, that "no one should shave John Robinson, till he pays what he owes to John Shafto." The sign, or signal, announcing the residence of one of this fraternity, was a long pole affixed to the doorpost, as may be seen at some barbers' shops, in Chelsea, at this hour. According to the account given of this sign, in the "British Apollo," folio, Lond. 1708, No. 3, it had its origin in "Ancient Rome," where—





HENRY VIII. GRANTING THE ACT OF UNION OF THE BARBERS' COMPANY WITH THE GUILD OF SURGEONS.  
 FROM THE PICTURE BY HOLBEIN, AT PRESENT IN THE HALL OF THE BARBERS' COMPANY, AND OFFERED FOR SALE TO THE CORPORATION OF THE CITY OF LONDON FOR £15,000.

HENRY VIII. GRANTING THE ACT OF UNION OF THE BARBERS' COMPANY WITH THE GUILD OF SURGEONS.

From the picture by Holbein, at present in the Hall of the Barbers' Company, and offered for sale to the Corporation of the

City of London for £15,000.





“ ’Twas ordered, that a huge long pole,  
With bason deck’d, should grace the hole,  
To guide the wounded.”

“ But when they ended all their wars,  
And men grew out of love with scars,  
Their trade decaying; to keep swimming,  
They joyn’d the other trade of trimming;  
And to their poles to publish either  
Thus twisted both their trades together.”

It is a curious circumstance, that the Act which united the companies, separated the professions. It is equally curious, and not less absurd, that, though by a special clause, it was enacted, that “no Barber shall occupy any thing belonging to surgery, drawing of teeth only excepted;” yet the reason for this union was, that by their assembling together, the “Science and Faculty of Surgery should be improved.” So that those who *did* practise surgery, were often to meet and assemble with those who *did not*, “TO BE IMPROVED BOTH IN SPECULATION AND PRACTICE.”

Thus, for some centuries, was surgery kept in a state of inferiority, as impolitic as it was ridiculous. It was reserved for the professors of our art in the nineteenth century, to raise the “nobility and dignity of Surgery;” and, by their talents, verify the motto of our College—

“ Quæ prosunt omnibus artes.”

1474.

The operation of Lithotomy was known to the ancients, and we find Hippocrates taking an oath never to perform it, which, perhaps, tended to put it out of fashion; for it seems to have been disused in the middle ages, till it was revived in 1474, when the physicians and surgeons of Paris, represented to Lewis XI. that several persons of condition, were afflicted with the stone, colic, pains, and stitches in the side; that it would be very proper to inspect the parts, where these disorders were engendered; that the greatest light they could receive, would be from performing an operation on a living man, and therefore they begged that a Franc archer, condemned to be hanged for robbery, who was frequently afflicted with these complaints, should be delivered up to them. Their petition was granted, and the operation was publicly performed in St. Severius Church-yard. After the operators had examined and made their experiment, the bowels were replaced in the body, which was sewed up, and so well dressed, that in a fortnight's time he was cured, and was pardoned his crimes.



## SYPHILIS.

“ Dear was the conquest of the *new-found* world,  
Whose plague, e’er since, through all the *old* is hurl’d”—

Says Fracastorius, by which he makes it coeval with Columbus, but a facetious writer of the sixteenth century, suggests that it is of much greater antiquity; for “whether, with physicians,” says he, “we call it Lues Venerea, with ’pothecaries, the Venereal Disease, with ladies, the French Distemper, or with fine gentlemen, by that short name so commonly used in the time of Congreve and Wycherly, I am persuaded that it is as old as the days of Hercules.” Be this as it may, it did not appear in Europe till the reign of Henry VII.

In the year 1497, a proclamation was issued at Edinburgh, commanding all persons afflicted with “a contagious sickness, callit the grand gore, (*i. e.* lues) that they pass forth and compair upon the Sandis of Leith, at ten hours before none; and thair sall have and find botis redie in the Haven, ordainit to them be officians of this burgh, reddelie furnisht with victuals, to have them to the Inch (Inch Keith) there to remain quhill God provyde for their health.” They were transported there “*ne quid detrimenti respublica caperet* :” a tolerably strong proof of the then virulence of the disease; in truth, so infectious was it reckoned, that one of the articles

of accusation brought by the Peers against Wolsey, 1539, was, that “ knowing himself to have the foul contagious disease, &c. &c. he came daily to your highness, rowning in your ear, and blowing upon your most noble grace, with his perilous and infectious breath.” Such was the nature of this plague; and there is nothing in the history of our profession, that more decidedly marks its advancement, than the progress which surgery has made in assuaging the horrors of this scourge.

One of the first who appeared with a specific, was Thomas Glanfield, who, in the ensuing reign, acquired great fame by introducing Guaiacum as a remedy. Jacob Berenger shortly after cured the disease by mercurial ointment. His success procured him so much fame and money, that he grew insolent, and answered, in a most contemptuous manner, the Pope, and the King of Spain, who had graciously invited him to practise at their courts.

The first treatise in English on this subject, was by William Clowes, 4to. 1596, a very scarce work, and not mentioned by Ames. But the most ancient printed essay on this subject, is that by Sir Almayn Ulric Hutton, Knt. 1533, afterwards translated by Daniel Turner. Sir Ulric was a man of letters, and a contemporary and opponent of Erasmus, and may fairly have been said to have written from experience, as he died of the disease.

In the library of the London Medical Society, there is a copy, Hutten de Gnajico, 8vo. Lond. 1524; and at the College of Physicians is a copy, 12mo. 1539, Lond. Dr. Armstrong, in his Synopsis, dates this book 1519. Boerhaave says, "I shall never forget, with what delight I read over the little treatise of Hutten's."

In 1672, that singular person, Gideon Harvey, published his "Great Venus unmasked;" in which he describes seven modes of cure, after the following order, viz.

- " The Herculean Cure.
- The Gigantean Cure.
- The Vulcanous Cure.
- The Negligent Cure.
- The Petty Cure.
- The Symptomatic Cure.—and
- The Secret Cure, &c."

But Gideon's Gigantic and Herculean cures are pigmy processes, compared with the proposition of a philosopher, to mercurialize the whole world, and who, in 1761, published a "Plan for Extirpating the Venereal Disease." Unluckily for mankind, or at any rate for the "Plan," the government of our country, from that time to this, have attended more to Mars than Mercury. This moderate undertaking is thus stated by the author: "I propose," says he, "to salivate the inhabitants of all Europe:—now," continues he, "without this were absolutely put in



practice in every part, at one and the same time, it would be of no manner of signification; and the difficulty of salivating all Europe, exactly at the same moment, must appear evident to the most common observer. Perhaps it may be asked, from whence a sufficient sum is to arise to defray the expense! I should imagine it would not cost above Two Millions sterling to salivate all the inhabitants of Great Britain that are in a desperate way, especially as it is to be hoped, that it would not be necessary to reduce above one-third of the inhabitants to that extremity: supposing this calculation to be founded on fact, this necessary sum might, methinks, be easily and equitably produced by *a tax upon Noses*. Surely no man would think it a burdensome impost, to pay one guinea for the security of the nose on his face; and I hope that there are at least a fourth part of the inhabitants of this Island, that have this ornamental feature actually remaining."







DR. BULLEYN . 1570 .

*Published August 1827, by Callow & Wilson, London.*

## COLLEGE OF PHYSICIANS.

Notwithstanding the importance of the practice of physic, and that the lives of princes were entrusted to the hands of physicians, there was no college, nor any laws for the good governance of it, till the reign of Henry VIII., who did protect “*the science and cunning of physick and surgery,*” by certain charters and acts of parliament, and in the fifteenth year of his reign, “*his true and faithful subjects and liege men,*” JOHN CHAMBRE, THOMAS LINACRE, FERDINANDUS DE VICTORIA, and others, obtained the incorporation of the Royal College of Physicians.

Before this establishment of the college, the Bishop of London, and the Dean of St. Paul’s, had the privileges of vending licences, or diplomas, to exercise the professions of physic and surgery, and the bishops of different dioceses over the kingdom, usurped a similar power. In these times, when king or prince was ill, the privy council selected, for attendance on the royal person, those doctors that were “*most profound, sad, and discreet, groundedly learned,* and deeply studied in physic.”

On the foundation of the Royal College of Physicians in London, its privileges and immunities were as ample as they could desire, as large as a king could

grant, and as lasting as subsequent acts of parliament could make them; and, in truth, there have been wise and sagacious politicians, who have thought that the powers with which that learned body were invested, were greater than any body corporate, in a country famous for liberty, should ever have been entrusted with. And the history of the college informs us, that their powers have been disputed even by those of their own faculty.

Linacre, who, for his learning and knowledge, was chosen the first president, after his travels, was incorporated doctor of medicine at Oxford, and read a straggling lecture there, which was an extraordinary or medical lecture, allowed by the authorities, and given gratis. It also appears, that he endowed two medical lectures at Merton college, being then the most celebrated for medical students. Those who gave the superior lecture, were called superior readers, and received £12. per annum; the other, £6. per annum. The lectures were to explain Hippocrates and Galen to the younger students. He also instituted a medical lecture at Cambridge. He was a great scholar, “a perfect hater of all indirect or fraudulent dealings, sincerely faithful to his friends, and well beloved of all ranks and degrees of men.” There is an original picture of him, by Holbein, at All Soul’s College, Oxford.

It is singular that the college should be founded by persons who took their degrees of medicine out



of the kingdom, and one of whom (Dr. Ferdinand de Victoria) was a foreigner.

Dr. Chambre graduated at Padua.

Dr. Linacre graduated in Italy.

Dr. Caius graduated at Bononia.

Dr. W. Harvey at Padua.

Dr. Hamey at Leyden.

Sir John Micklethwaite at Padua.

Caius, Harvey, and Sir John Micklethwaite were afterwards *incorporated* Doctors of English Universities, a circumstance particularly noticed by Wood—*Fasti*, vol. i. p. 8.

“Incorporations,” says he, “were of such who had taken a degree in another University, and have been embodied, or rather taken into the bosom of this of Oxon, and have enjoyed the same liberties and privileges, as if they had taken their degree here.”

## ANDREW BORDE,

or as he called himself Andreas Perforatus, had a “rambling head, and an unconstant mind;” travelled through most parts of Europe, and at last settled at Winchester. He was a most extraordinary person. He professed celibacy, drank water three days in the week, wore a horse hair shirt, and hung his shroud, or burial-sheet, at his bed’s feet. But notwithstanding all this parade, Andrew was suspected of not being more moral than his neighbours.

The life of this singular doctor is to be found in most biographical works; and Ant. Wood gives an account of him in the *Ath. Oxon.* vol. i.; but a more elaborate history of his character has been subsequently given by that learned antiquary Hearne, who informs us, that Dr. Borde wrote several other things besides those mentioned by Wood, and one of these was Borde’s *Peregrination*, a very curious tract, and quoted by Norden, to shew that Harrow on the hill, in Middlesex, was a market town in the time of Dr. Borde.

Hearne thinks Borde’s travelling was not from “a rambling head, and an unconstant mind,” but from a religious feeling, thinking it the best way to secure a good conscience, seeing the dangers that the religious were subject to in England.

“ The great skill Dr. Borde had in physick, induced divers princes to apply to him for his advice. Even King Henry VIII. is reported to have employed him on that score, as Mr. Wood hath justly noted. And yet Dr. Borde could not approve of the measures taken by that prince, both with respect to his virtuous Queen Catherine, and to the destruction of the religious houses. But the Doctor’s skill in his profession, was a powerful motive to engage the king to have recourse to him, and even to constitute him his physician, well knowing that he was an honest man, and that men of religious principles are more to be relied on than libertines, however otherwise very eminent for their skill in the faculty of physic.”

“ We have only one part of the “ *Boke of Knowledge* ” printed, that I know of; but the author intended a second part, as I gather from what himself hath signified. Before this, he published a little book, never heard of by Mr. Wood, entitled, “ *The Princypels of Astronamy, the whiche diligently perscruted is in a manner a Prognosticacyon to the Worlde’s End,* ” in thirteen chapters, beginning, “ Hit is gretly to be dolentyd.” Bishop Moore had a copy of it, and it is now in Bibl. Regia Cant. At the end, he tells his readers, “ I desier every man to tak this lytel work for a past time. For I did wrett and make this book in iiii days, and wretten with one old pen without mendying, and wher I do wret the sygnes

in Aries, in Taurus, and in Leo, is for my purpose, it stondyth best for our maternal tonge. Finis."

"Dr. Borde was an ingenious man, and knew how to humour and please his patients, readers, and auditors. In his travels and visits, he often appeared and spoke in public, and would often frequent markets and fairs, where a conflux of people used to get together, to whom he prescribed; and to induce them to flock thither the more readily, he would make humorous speeches, couched in such language as caused mirth, and wonderfully propagated his fame; and it was for the same end that he made use of such expressions in his books, as would otherwise (the circumstances not considered) be very justly pronounced bombast. As he was versed in antiquity, he had words at command, from old writers, with which to amuse his hearers, which could not fail of pleasing, provided he added at the same time some remarkable explication. It was from the Doctor's method of using such speeches at markets and fairs, that in after times, those that imitated the like humorous, jocose language, were stiled Merry-Andrews, a term much in vogue on our stages."

*Hearne.*



## SWEATING SICKNESS.

The Sweating Sickness first visited England Anno Dom. 1483, and repeated its visitations 1485, 1506, 1517, 1528, and last of all, 1551.

This epidemic disease raged with such peculiar violence in England, and had so quick a crisis, that it was distinguished by the name of *Ephmera Britannica*. This singular fever seems to have been of the most simple, though of the most acute kind, and notwithstanding princes and nobles were its chief victims, the physicians of the day never agreed upon the method of treating it.

The splendid French embassy, which arrived in England in 1550, found the court-festivities damped by a visitation of that strange and terrific malady:

“This pestilence, first brought into the island by the foreign mercenaries who composed the army of the Earl of Richmond, afterwards Henry VII., now made its appearance for the fourth and last time in our annals. It seized principally, it is said, on males, on such as were in the prime of their age, and rather on the higher than the lower classes: within the space of twenty-four hours, the fate of the sufferer was decided for life or death. Its ravages were prodigious; two princes died of it; and the

general consternation was augmented, by a superstitious idea which went forth, that Englishmen alone were the destined victims of this mysterious minister of fate, which tracked their steps, with the malice and sagacity of an evil spirit, into every distant country of the earth whither they might have wandered, whilst it left unassailed all foreigners in their own." *Aikin's Elizabeth*, vol. i. p. 116.

Though the *regular physicians* could not cure this fever, the *irregulars* and *quacks* made light work of it; and one doctor gives a specific remedy for it, and the formula. It consisted of filings of white metal, and conserve of oranges; to be given the third day before the full of the moon, and twelve hours *before* the full, as near as can be known from astronomical calculation, and also the middle of the third day *after* the full of the moon. Twelve doses *thus given*, are generally sufficient, but in the event of more being required, the full and change of the moon are to be observed! This prescription the doctor gives for the good of mankind, with a candid confession that it is not his own, but was communicated to him by a learned gentleman; and being thus freely published, must needs obviate the ill-natured constructions too often put upon humane intentions.

## TALIACOTIUS.

Celebrated in this country, by the ludicrous allusion to him in *Hudibras*; and celebrated in Italy, as a maker of Noses at Bologna, where, after his death in 1559, the magistracy of the place honoured his memory by a statue, in the Anatomical Theatre, having in its hand a *nose*, as an appropriate emblem of the art which he practised with so much fame and success.

Although Taliacotius has the credit of bringing the art of nose making into fashion, and being the first to write on the mode and manner of performing the operation, yet it appears that one Branca, had been in the habit of performing it long before, as we learn from an ancient author, whose name must, in this instance, be considered as the highest authority, being no less a person than NOSORENUS.

Why the magistracy of Bologna should have conferred such high honour on Taliacotius, is difficult to understand, unless the loss of the nose was of more frequent occurrence than in these days, from the barbarity of warfare, and civil punishment: for an old law of the Lombards, assigned the loss of the nose as a punishment for theft; and the captives in war, were equally spoiled for snuff-takers.

That this was no uncommon dilemma with Italian gentlemen in those days, appears by the stile in



which a Neapolitan poet, of the fifteenth century, writes to the *noseless* Orpianus:—"If," says he, "you would have your nose restored, come to me," "truly the thing is wonderful?"—"Be assured, that if you come, you may go home again with as much nose as you please."

Van Helmont tells a story, of a person who applied to Taliacotius to have his nose restored. This person, having a dread of an incision being made in his own arm, got a labourer, who, for a remuneration, suffered the nose to be taken from his arm. About thirteen months after, the adscititious nose suddenly became cold, and, after a few days, dropped off, in a state of putrefaction. The cause of this unexpected occurrence having been investigated, it was discovered that, at the same moment in which the nose grew cold, the labourer at Bologna expired.

There are many similar stories, and it was such stories as these, that gave rise to Butler's joke, and to that of Voltaire's, beginning—

" Ainsi Taliacotius  
Grande Esculape d'Etrurie,  
Repara tous les nesperdus,  
Par une nouvelle industrie."

But these are superstitious stories, and have nothing to do with the Taliacotian operation, as described in his works, and as lately performed by Mr. Carpue.



## VESSALIUS.

The most eminent and meritorious of the scholars of Sylvius. This illustrious man was born at Brussels, in 1514, and made such progress in medical studies, that he was chosen Professor in the University of Louvain before he attained the age of twenty years. Thence he attended the Emperor Charles the Fifth, in his expedition against his rival, Francis the First, in which service he gained such reputation, that he was solicited to give lectures in various Universities of Italy. Before he was thirty, he published his well-known anatomical plates, drawn from life, which, if his claim to the appellation of Father of Anatomy be questionable, certainly entitle him to be considered as the founder of its more rational practice.

He gave very early tokens of his love for anatomy, amusing himself when a boy with dissecting dogs, cats, and rats; and in 1542, he presented the University of Basil with a human skeleton of his own preparing.

Thaunus, who relates many singular anecdotes of this illustrious person, amongst others, states, as a proof of his correct knowledge of human anatomy, that he undertook to name, with his eyes bound, any the least bone in the body, and that he did actually perform what he undertook.

His anatomical zeal, however, according to the same authority, led him into a scrape, which caused him to take a pilgrimage to the Holy Land. This was no less than opening a Spanish nobleman, who proved to be not quite defunct; and which has given rise to the belief, that he dissected a “live man:” a mistake which, in this country, would have excluded him the benefit of clergy, and sent him on a pilgrimage beyond the limits of Palestine.

Another anecdote from Thaunus, would lead us to believe, that his anatomical knowledge was nothing, compared with his sagacity and skill in his profession, of which he gives the following “*very singular assurance.*”—“Maximilian d’Egmont, Count of Buren, grand general, and a favourite of the Emperor, being ill, VESSALIUS declared to him, that he could not recover; and also told him that he could not hold out beyond such a day and hour. The Count, firmly persuaded that the event would answer the prediction, invited all his friends to a grand entertainment at the time; after which he made them presents, took a final leave of them, and then expired precisely at the moment Vessalius had predicted!” The præsagia, or prognostications of modern doctors do not go this length.

The name of VESSALIUS, cannot be too highly honoured; and is too sterling, to be tarnished by the trumpery attached to it.

1572.

It was debated at the Mansion House, before Wm. Allen, Lord Mayor, the Bishop of London, the Master of the Rolls, and other learned persons, whether a surgeon could lawfully prescribe internal remedies; when it was decided he could not, no, not even in *Morbo Gallico*; and a surgeon was afterwards mulcted for so prescribing.

The doctors, though they objected to a surgeon practising *physic*, did not object to a doctor practising *surgery*; and in the 32d of Henry VIII., they inserted a clause, stating that “forasmuch as the science of physic doth comprehend, include and contain the knowledge of surgery, as a special member and part of the same:” therefore, “Doctors might practise surgery;” and, in 1595, the College intimated, by letter, to the Surgeons’ Company, their intention to proceed against all who should offend in this matter. And, in 1602, Chief Justice Popham gave a judgment, which produced a very flattering letter of thanks from the College.



## BLISTERS.

By whom Blisters were first introduced into the *Praxis Medica* is uncertain. The fathers of the *Grecian* school are silent about them, and their successors, the *Arabians*, are equally so. Freind assigns them an era, and a place, and states that in 1576, Venice and Padua, being afflicted with a most desolating pestilence, the physicians, among other remedies, recommended blisters, and Jerome Mercuriali, distinguished himself by writing on the subject. Fourteen years afterwards, the plague breaking out at Pessaro, the question of the utility of blisters in pestilential diseases, became a matter of great contention, and this controversy led to their adoption in other countries; and *Flori* and *Pessaro*, the first, as the birth-place of their great champion; the latter, as where they were first experimentally used in pestilence, contended for the honour of the invention and propagation thereof. We are told that the introduction of this new remedy, superseded the use of sinapisms, DROPAXES, and METASYNCRETICS, and consequently *dropaxes* and *metasyncretics* went immediately out of fashion. But as in law, so in physic, there is always two sides of a question, unanimity among the doctors did not follow, and *Malpighi*, an oracle in matters of science, disinherited his heirs, for allowing blisters to be put upon him, when he was speechless.



## RESUSCITATION.

When the Barber-Surgeons made a law, providing for any subject that might come to life again, from the following narrative of cases, there appears to have been more reason for it than we were aware of.

In Plott's History of Staffordshire, we are told that, in the reign of Henry III., one Judith de Balsham was condemned for receiving and concealing thieves, and hanged from nine o'clock on Monday morning, till sun-rise on Tuesday following, and yet escaped with life! In evidence of this most incredible story, Plott recites verbatim, a royal pardon granted to the woman, in which the fact is circumstantially recorded. "Quia Inetta de Balsham pro receptamento Latronum ei imposito nuper, per considerationem curie nostre suspendio adjudicata, et ab hora nona diei Lune usque post ortem solis diei Martis sequen. suspensa, viva evasit *sicut ex testimonio fide dignorum accepimus.*" What can be said against such testimony as this? Nothing, perhaps, but that the thing is impossible. The days of Henry III. were days of imposture; and there have been grosser juggles in the annals of craft, than hanging a woman for twenty-four hours without killing her.

In the account of Oxfordshire by the same author, we find a remarkable notice of Ann Greene, who, after being hanged, was recovered by Sir William Petty. The time of suspension, was not quite so long as that of Judith de Balsham; she hung only about half an hour. “What was most remarkable,” says Plott, ‘and distinguished the hand of Providence in her recovery, she was found to be innocent of the crime for which she suffered.’”

The whole of this history was published by Dr. Ralph Bathurst, in a book, he called “Newes from the Dead, together with certain poems casually written on that subject.” Oxford, 1651. We have, in more recent times, an account of Margaret Dickson, who was hung (1728) at Edinburgh, that afterwards came to life, was married, and lived thirty years; but here it must be recollected, that by the Scottish law, a person against whom the judgment of the Court has been executed, can suffer no more in future, and is thenceforth totally exculpated. Not so the law in England; this indulgence is not granted, the sentence being, that the party be hanged by the neck till they are dead, for which reason, when Reynolds, who was hanged at Tyburn, (1736), was found to be alive, Jack Ketch stickled hard for the fulfilment of the law, and was for hanging him up again, but the mob being of a different opinion, beat the finisher of the law in a most miserable manner, and carried Reynolds to

a public house at Bayswater, where he afterwards died.

“ A few years after the present Cork Theatre was opened, the most singular exhibition took place on its stage, perhaps, to be found in theatrical records : one of the performers, named Glover, had attended, in the morning, the execution of Patrick Redmond, a man who was sentenced to be hanged for robbery. After hanging a short time, the body was cut down and delivered to his friends, when Glover, having some knowledge of surgery, and believing the vital spark not to be extinct, recommended the usual methods for recalling animation, which were applied, and proving effectual, Redmond speedily recovered. That very evening, inspired by gratitude, as well as whiskey, he went to the play-house, and on Glover’s appearance, jumped upon the stage, and returned thanks to his preserver, to the no small terror and astonishment of the audience.”—*Researches in the South of Ireland*, by T. Crofton Croker, p. 191.

Bracebridge, the Horace Walpole of Fleet Street, deposes, in his Memoirs, to the fact of Glover’s restoring a hanged man to life.

The following extracts, are from the “ Cork Remembrancer,” by John Fitzgerald, 1783. This book may well be styled the Hangman’s Chronicle, for Fitzgerald (who was a writing master) had a strange fancy of being a spectator at all executions,



and the facts being within his memory, may be depended on. On one occasion, being unable, through illness, to attend, he actually petitioned the judge to have the execution deferred. Fitzgerald was the real hero of the tale of "the Man in the Bell," (which circumstances occurred to him in the Cathedral of Cork) related in Blackwood's Magazine, (about 1821) and which was quoted by Mr. Brougham in the House of Commons, shortly afterwards. But the style in which these facts of resuscitation are recorded, is almost sufficient guarantee for their genuineness.

" 1750. Robert Colebank was executed at Broad Lane, on Saturday the 1st of September, for the robbery of John Meade, Esq. Counsellor at Law. Colebank was pitied by the multitude, and fortunately for himself he came to life, and made his escape through Poultney's Lane. John Webb and John Swete, Esq. Sheriffs."

" 1755. Denis Sheehan, taylor, (who had a lame step) executed at Gallows-green, on Wednesday the 13th of August, for the murder of his aunt near Macromp. He afterwards came to life, and made his escape. His sister, Catherine Sheehan, was also found guilty of the same murder, but on pleading pregnancy, (which was found so) her sentence was respited."

" 1766. Patrick Redmond, the taylor, was exe-



cuted at Gallows Green, on Wednesday the 10th of September, for robbing the dwelling house of John Griffin. Glover, the player, (who was then in Cork) took an active part in this man's restoration. After he hung nine minutes, and was cut down, he was perfectly restored to life, by the dint of friction and fumigation. He afterwards made his escape, got drunk, went to the play-house door (the night of his execution) to return Mr. Glover thanks, and put the whole audience in terror and consternation. He was the third taylor that made his escape from the gallows, since the year 1755."

The Cork Remembrancer, 1753, relates—" April 19. Francis Taylor was buried in Peter's Church-yard, and the next morning was found sitting up in the grave, his cap and shroud tore to pieces, the coffin broke, one of his shoulders much mangled, one of his hands full of clay, and blood running from his eye; a melancholy instance of the fatal consequences of a too precipitate interment." *This seems to have been a resurrection man's job.*

Anatomists and surgeons have frequently incurred the odium of being precipitate in their post mortem examinations. It has been charged upon the illustrious Vessalius, and, in more modern times, on Mons. de Lassone, and others; nay, credulity has gone so far, as to suppose, that subjects have occasionally been kept till wanted; nor is such a notion altogether extravagant, when we find an article of

this kind offered to Joshua Brookes, the anatomical lecturer, in the following terms:—

“ Mr. Brooke, i have taken it into consideration to send this poor man to you, being greatly in distress, hoping you will find sum employment for him in the silling the dead carcasses ; and if you can find him no employment, the berer of this wishes to sell himself to you, as he is weary of this life. And I remain your humble servant, JOHN DAVIS.”

A similar letter was sent to a surgeon at Salisbury:—

“ Sir—Being informed that you are the only surgeon in this county, in the habit of dissecting dead bodies—being very poor, I am desirous of passing what remains to me of life, with as much comfort as my unhappy condition admits of. In all probability I shall be executed in the course of a month ; having no friend to intercede for me, nor even to afford me a morsel of bread, to keep body and soul together till the fatal moment arrives, I beg you will favour me with a visit ; I am desirous of disposing of my body, which is healthy and sound, for a moderate sum of money. It shall be delivered to you on demand, being persuaded that on the day of general resurrection, I shall as readily find it in your laboratory, as if it were deposited in a tomb. Your speedy answer will much oblige your obedient servant,  
JAMES BROWN.”

## TOBACCO.

Tobacco's a physician,  
 Good both for sound and sickly;  
 'Tis a hot perfume,  
 That expels cold Rheume,  
 And makes it flow down quickly.

So says an old song, in an old play, and so said Dr. Ralph Thorius, and the learned Dr. EVERARD, who wrote a book, entitled “Panacea, or a Universal Medicine, being a Discovery of the wonderful Virtues of Tobacco;” (1659) and in the frontispiece of his book, the Doctor is represented with a pipe in his mouth. Dr. William Butler, styled, by Fuller, the *Æsculapius* of his age, was also a great admirer of tobacco, and that he might not smoke a dry pipe, he invented a medical drink, called “Butler’s Ale;” afterwards sold at the Butler’s Head, in Mason’s Alley, Basinghall Street.

Sir Theodore Mayerne gives a curious specimen of his tobacco practice: “A person applying to him with a violent defluxion on his teeth, Butler told him, that ‘a hard knot must be split with a hard wedge,’ and directed him to smoke tobacco without intermission, till he had consumed an ounce of the herb. The man was accustomed to smoke; he therefore took twenty-five pipes at a sitting. This first occasioned extreme sickness, and then a flux of saliva, which, with gradual abatement of the pain,



ran off to the quantity of two quarts. The disorder was entirely cured, and did not return for seventeen years."

Ant. Wood says, that he was much resorted to, "and had been more, did he not delight to please himself with fantastical humours."

Many singular stories are related of him, perhaps they are travelling stories, as may be conjectured, from the nature of the prescription, when he ordered a lethargic parson to be put into the warm carcase of a newly killed cow!

Fuller paints this humourist in striking colours, but observes, "that he made his humoursomeness to become him; wherein some of his profession have rather aped than imitated him, who had morositatem æquabilem, and kept the tenor of the same surliness to all persons."

The following extracts from *Letters from the Bodleian*, vol. ii., will give a notion of his *humour*, and of his mode of treating his patients.

"Dr. Gale, of St. Paul's Schoole, assures me that a Frenchman came one time from London to Cambridge, purposely to see him, whom he made stay two houres for him in his gallery, and then he came out in an old blue gowne. The French gentleman makes him two or three very low bowes



downe to the ground ; Dr. Butler whippes his legge over his head, and away goes into his chamber, and did not speake with him. He kept an old mayd, whose name was Nell. Dr. Butler would many times goe to the taverne, but drinke by himselfe: about nine or ten at night, old Nell comes to him with a candle and lanthorne, and sayes, ‘Come home, you drunken beast.’ By and by Nell would stumble, then her master calls her ‘drunken beast ;’ and so they did ‘drunken beast’ one another all the way till they came home.”

“ The Dr. lyeing at the Savoy in London, next the water side, where was a balcony look’t into the Thames, a patient came to him that was grievously tormented with an Ague. The Dr. orders a boate to be in readinesse under his windowe, and discoursed with the patient (a gent.) in the balcony, when, on a signal given, two or three lusty fellows came behind the gent., and threw him a matter of twenty feet into the Thames. This surprise absolutely cured him.”

“ A gent. with a red, ugly, pimpled face, came to him for a cure. Said the Dr. ‘I must hang you.’ So presently he had a device made ready to hang him from a beam in the roome ; and when he was e’en almost dead, he cuts the veins that fed these pimples, and lett out the black ugly blood, and cured him.”

Butler must have been a man of abilities, for the Lord Treasurer Burleigh wrote to the President of the College of Physicians, desiring that Butler might be allowed to practice in London occasionally, and he was consulted, with Sir Theodore Mayerne and others, in the sickness that proved fatal to Prince Henry; and it is reported that Butler, at first sight of him, gave an unfavorable prognostic. The account of this case affords such an excellent notion of the consultations and practice of the Doctors of those days, that I am induced to give it as stated in the *Desiderata Curiosa*.

*“ The Manner of the Sickness and Death of Prince Henry. 6th Nov. 1612.*

“ Dr. Atkins, a Physician of London, famous for his practyce, honestie and learninge, was sent for to assiste the rest in the cure.

“ He got worse, whereupon bleedinge was again proposed by Dr. Mayerne, and the favorers thereof, alledging that in this case of extremity, they must (if they meant to save his life) proceed in the cure, as though he was some meane person.

“ This was not agreed to, and next day, the Physicians, Chirurgeons, and Apothecaryes seemed to be dismayed, as men perplexed, yet the most part were of opinion, that the crisis was to been seene before a final dissolution. *This day a cock*

*was cloven by the backe, and applyed to the soles of his feete. But in vayne. Shortly after it was announced that all hope was gone. His Majestie then gave leave and absolute power to Dr. Mayerne, to do what he woulde of himselfe, without advise of the rest; but the Doctor did not it seems like this, 'for hee, weighing the greatness of the cure and eminencye of the danger, would not, for all that, adventure to doe any thinge of himself, without the advice of the rest, saying, that it should never be said in after ages, that he had kyllled the Kynge's eldest sonne.'*

“ Bleeding was again proposed by Mayerne, but Doctors Hamond, Butler, and Atkins could not agree about it; instead of which they doubled and tripled the cordials.

“ Then came to assist the rest, Dr. Palmer and Dr. Giffard, famous physicians for their honestie and learninge. The result of this consultation was *Diascordium*, which was given in the presence of many honorable gentlemen.

“ All sorts of cordialls were sent. *Sir Walter Rawleigh* sent one from the Tower.”



1584.

Dr. Richard Caldwell, who with Lord Darnley founded the Lecture, called to this day the Lumleian Lecture, was so highly valued for his learning and happy practice, that he was *examined, approved, and admitted* in the College of Physicians of London, and *made Censor of it in one and the same day*. Six weeks after he was chosen one of the Elects, and shortly after President. He wrote some medical works not now extant; but there is a translation of some *Tables of Surgery* (1585), supposed to be by him, in the Bodleian Library, addressed to the “Companie of Surgeons,” reprehending their neglect in not frequenting the Lecture founded for their sakes. It was in the course of these lectures, that the circulation was first made public by Harvey. And the College voted one hundred pounds out of their public stock, “to make the College Rooms more ample and spacious, for the better celebration of this most solemn Lecture.”

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1606.

It is a curious circumstance, that the penal enactments against the Irish Catholics, do not present a single clause interdicting the practice of the medical profession.



## APOTHECARY.

Apothecary, in its derivative sense, does not seem to allude particularly to the sellers of medicines. *Αποθηκη* is of very indefinite signification (*Horreum*) a market, shop, or repository, which may be used or applied to any other business. Chaucer and Pegge make it *Poticarry*, while some have derived it from *A-pot-he-carries*, intimating, that they used to carry the medicines themselves, as well as see them administered. “Give me an ounce of civet, good Apothecary,” says Shakspeare.

The ancient Apothecaries were called *PIZOTOMOI*, root-cutters, and root-cutters they may still be considered; at any rate, no one will deny to honest, herborizing Tom Wheeler, the character of a primitive *PIZOTOMOS*.

That they may still be characterized by this appellation, their “Herborizing Walks,” and their Botanic Garden at Chelsea, afford very creditable proofs, nor is there any circumstance, in the history of the present worshipful society, that reflects more honour on their zeal in promoting those branches of science, which appertain to their avocation, than the disinterestedness and liberality with which, during the last two centuries, they have maintained their establishment at Chelsea.

An active and intelligent member of their Court, has furnished them with a very interesting and ample memoir on the subject, by which it appears, that this expensive design was commenced at a time when the society was without any disposable funds, when their Hall was burnt down in the memorable fire, and when they were obliged to draw upon their own private pecuniary resources, to enable them to enter on an undertaking, “whose principal design was honourable reputation, without any prospect of worldly advantage.”

Previously to the establishment of this garden, there had been nothing of the kind, with the exception of a few private gardens, the most conspicuous of which, were those of the celebrated John Gerarde, and the elder Tradescant; the former of these not then being in existence, and the latter in a state of neglect and ruin, and the locality of their position is now only known from the records of the times.

There was, however, besides these, a small garden in Westminster, belonging to Mrs. Gape, the plants from which, furnished the first specimens for the Chelsea Garden. It appears from Evelyn's journal, that he paid old Mrs. Gape's *medical garden* a visit in June 1658; whether he begged, borrowed, or bought any plants, does not appear; that he had a very fine garden at Sayer's Court, is well known, but that he lent it to that royal barbarian, Peter the great, when he was studying ship building

at Deptford, is, perhaps, not so generally known, nor, moreover, the return this royal carpenter made to Evelyn's politeness, or the manner in which he shewed his horticultural taste, in being wheeled through his landlord's ornamental hedges, and over his borders, in a wheel-barrow; a circumstance which is recorded in a letter to the then Secretary of the Royal Society.

In France, the Apothecaries were incorporated so early as 1484; but it was not till the reign of King James the first, when the metropolis abounded in dangerous empiricks, who made and compounded many "hurtful, false, and pernicious medicines," that the Worshipful Society of Apothecaries were incorporated in London. Notwithstanding a charter was given them to correct these abuses, it was found to be nugatory with respect to those who were not members of the society; and, although they made repeated applications to Parliament, it is only within these very few years, that their powers have been extended, and that they could legally enter the shop of any "person or persons using the art and mystery of an apothecary, in any part of England and Wales, for the purpose of searching, surveying, and proving whether the medicines, wares, drugs, or any thing or things whatsoever, in such shop or shops contained, and belonging to the art or mystery of an apothecary, be wholesome, meet, and fit for the cure, health, and ease of His Majesty's subjects."



This deficiency was, however, in some measure supplied by a power vested in the College of Physicians, by whose charter it was enacted, that certain members of the College were to make annual visits to the apothecaries' shops. To help them in their inquiries, they were to have with them one of the wardens of the *Grocers' Company*; and Dr. Pitt, a fellow of the College, and Physician to St. Bartholomew's Hospital, has left a curious transcript of a deposition, after a visit of this kind, made in the beginning of the last century, which is a singular piece of private history, and affords us a specimen of some obsolete specifics.

*Transcript of the Deposition.*

Mr. G——'s Shop.

*London Laudinum* without either colour or smell.

*Oxicroceum* . . . . . without saffron.

*Pil. Ruff.* . . . . . no colour of saffron.

Mr. R——'s Shop.

*Diascordium* . . . . dark and thin, without a due proportion of the gums.

*London Laudinum* a dry hard substance, without smell or colour.

Mr. S——'s Shop.

*Diascordium* . . . . too thin (let down with honey, I suppose)

*Venice Treacle* . . a thin body, much candied.

*London Laudinum* a dry hard substance, without smell or colour.



## Mr. G——'s Shop.

*Diascordium* . . . . thin bodied, much candied.

*Venice Treacle* . . thin, candied without its proportions.

*London Laudinum* a dry hard substance.

## Mr. G——'s Shop.

*Paracelsus!* . . . . without its powders or gums.

*Oxycrocium!* . . . . of a dark colour.

*Diascordium* . . . . of a thin substance.

*Gascon's Powder!* without bezoar.

*London Laudinum* hard, without smell or colour.

*Pil. ex duobus.* . . . without the oil of cloves.

## Mr. S——'s Shop.

*Diascordium* . . . . of a thin body, without the gums.

*Mithridate!* . . . . no colour of saffron.

*London Laudinum* neither smell nor colour.

*Liquid Laudinum* . thin, no colour of saffron.

*Gascon's Powder* . without bezoar.

Poets and dramatists, in drawing *medical character*, have indulged themselves in drawing *caricature*, and though *Lenitive* and *Ollapod*, may have been done from the life, the originals are no longer to be found. They arose chiefly out of a class of persons, who formerly were admitted medical practitioners in the necessities of war, and when their naval or military services were over, settled themselves in country

towns, after the fashion of one, who informed the world, that—

“ Having travelled wide and far,  
Man-midwife to a Man of War;  
In Chichester had ta'en a house,  
*Hippocrates, Hippocratous.*”

Many old fashioned country practitioners were of this cast, and were, from the nature of their medical education, scarcely acquainted with the rudiments of their profession.

By the operation of the Apothecaries' Act, no person can practise on his Majesty's liege subjects, in England and Wales, in future, without a licence, to gain which, it is necessary to pass an examination that would have puzzled a professor in former times. The Court of Examiners, to whom this duty is confided, are men of general attainments, as well as of professional skill. The members of the present Court are—

Arthur Tegart, *Chairman.*

George Johnson.

Wentworth Malim.

James Peter Fallofield.

James Seaton.

Allen Williams.

Henry Robinson.

Everard Augustus Brande.

John Bacot.

John Ridout.

Henry Cromwell Field.

Thomas Lowe Wheeler.

John Watson, *Secretary*.

The medical community, who are the only competent judges of the subject, will feel that these names are an unequivocal guarantee, that an important public duty is performed with fidelity and honour.

The office of apothecary is of very ancient date. The Greek and Roman physicians were their own apothecaries, and when they ceased to act in that character is not exactly known. Conring asserts, (*de antiquitatibus academicis*) that the physicians in Africa first began to give up the preparation of medicines, so early as the time of Avenzoar, in the eleventh century. This accounts for many Arabic terms of art being introduced into pharmacy and chemistry, and explains why the first known apothecaries were in the lower part of Italy, and their first legal establishment in the kingdom of Naples.

In many places, particularly in opulent cities, the first apothecaries' shops were established at the public expence, and belonged to the magistrates. A particular garden was also appropriated to the apothecary, that he might rear the necessary plants, which was called the apothecary's garden; and in many places, though the purposes of it are changed,



it is called by the common people after its original designation, the *apothecary's garden*. In the free Hanse City of Bremen, the largest apothecaries' shop, (named Staat's Apotheke) is the property of the Republic.

A very ample account, respecting German apothecaries, has been given by Mr. Sattler. Many authorized shops were established throughout Germany in the early part of the fifteenth century, being subject to the inspection of a city physician. A regulation to this effect, took place so early as the year 1440, when it was ordered, that a public physician should be established in every imperial city.

In most places, the apothecary's shop seems to have been a monopoly; and in Halle, till the year 1535, there was only one, when the archbishop gave his physician, J. N. von Wyke, liberty to establish another, but with an assurance that, *to eternity*, no more should be permitted in Halle; and this declaration was afterwards confirmed by the chapter.

Apothecaries' shops for the use of courts were frequently directed by princesses, and it was formerly the fashion, when the fair sex lost the power of *wounding*, to apply themselves to the art of *healing*, and particularly in Italy, where the dealers in herbs and drugs, were also dealers in sweetmeats and confectionary.



## PHARMACOPŒIA.

When the College of Physicians first published the Pharmacopœia, in 1618, it was compiled, and the dedication written, by Sir Theodore Mayerne, a Frenchman, whose national vanity led him to believe, that the weight of Troyes in Champagne, must be superior to that of the *barbares* of England; not recollecting that the English weights, were those used by the Greeks and Romans in composing many of the prescriptions that he had selected.

A great practical inconvenience has resulted from this French fancy, to the English apothecary, who, from that time to the present, has bought by one weight, and dispensed his medicines by another; and it is singular, that in the various alterations of the Pharmacopœia, the College have never thought proper to alter the weights. They cannot, as my friend Sir John Doyle observed, “want *weight* to carry the *measure*.”

Before this publication with the name of *Pharmacopœia*, it was designated, very properly, “*Antidotarium Generale*;” and the *Materia Medica* of SIR THEODORE MAYERNE, fellow of the College, and physician to four kings, affords a tolerable specimen of credulity and superstition. His powder for gout had, among other things, *rasping of a human skull*

*unburied*;—for Hypochondriasis, an ointment made from adders, bats, sucking whelps, earth-worms, hog's grease, marrow of a stag, and of the thigh bone of an ox. *The lungs of a man who had suffered a violent death*, the liver of frogs, the blood of weasels, and many other ingredients, worthy of the witches' cauldron, were specifics with this great doctor.

Though these potent panaceas were afterwards excluded, yet in more modern times, there were to be found, supposed remedies, which had as problematical a title to that appellation as balsam of bats, or the lungs of an executed criminal!

How is it to be explained, that such a character as Mead, a man of skill and honour, beyond all suspicion, should have been so far deceived, as to deceive others, in giving to the public a prophylactic medicine to prevent the effects from the bite of a mad dog, which in the event proved inadequate, and is now unknown? Here we have a proof, that where conjecture is the foundation for positive assertion, mankind are much on a level. Mead was a man of learning, and of credulity, and his specific, "*Pulvis Antylysus*," now lies entombed with the "*Aqua Styptica*," of Sydenham, in the old *Pharmacopœia*.

That there were many others of equal efficacy, we may judge, from the report made by a Committee of the College, which, in 1745, was appointed

to revise and correct the Pharmacopœia;—let us hear what they say about

### ARCANUM CORALLINUM.

The Committee are pleased to observe, that the *Arcanum*, does not mean a secret known only to some adept, but simply implies a medicine which produces its effect by some hidden property. They reject the *Arcanum*, however, with the remark that, “admitting it to be taken in the sense of PARACELSUS, whose supercilious ignorance merits our scorn and indignation, though that is not the common acceptation of the word, the title should stand thus—The Corolline medicine, which produces its effect by some hidden (i. e. *secret*) property.”

Next comes a dissertation on JUS VIPERINUM, and the following directions are given for making—

### VINUM VIPERENUM.

Take six live Vipers,  
Mountain, two pints,  
Proof spirit, four ounces.

Digest for *six months* without heat, and then strain off the wine.

Among other specifics, are SYRUPUS HYSTERICUS; PULVIS HELVETII, composed of *Sanguis Draconis*, AQUA THERIACALIS, AQUA HYSTERICA, AQUA MIRABILIS! and LAC VIRGINALE!



It would be curious to look over the files of the most celebrated Apothecaries; Walker, Brande, Tegart, Chilver, and others, who have the prescriptions of the great Doctors of the last century; and to see the *means* they used to cure the patricians and plebeians of their day.

If the antidotes of the learned were of this character, it cannot be matter of surprise that the antidotes of the Lady Bountifuls and amateur practitioners were of the same kind.

Let us now quote some of those never-failing panaceas from the “Domestic Medicine” of our forefathers, which, in the refinement of modern times, may be thought somewhat barbarous. In a work in Sion College Library, entitled “The English Housewife,” or “Physick, Chirurgery, Cookery,” &c. 1683, 4to. is the following receipt to make Oil of Swallows, which when made, “is exceeding *sovereign for any broken bones*, bones out of joynt, or any pain or grief, either in the bones or sinews.”

“Receipt.—To make oil of swallows. Take lavender cotton, spike knot-grass, rib-wort, balm, valerian, rosemary-tops, woodbine-tops, vine-strings, French mallows, (*and about twenty other articles*) of each of them a handful; *twenty quick*, i. e. *live swallows*, and *beat them together in a mortar*, and put to them a



a quart of neat's-foot oyl, or May-butter, and *grind them all well together!*"

The same partiality for live creatures is manifested in some other receipts, in which the word *quick* has a similar application. So prevalent is prejudice, and so natural is the propensity of man to adhere to opinions once rooted in his mind, that the receipt book is unfolded with confidence, the hotch-potch of herbs is prepared, or if it be a mad-dog case, his liver is chopped, and offered up at the altar of superstition. The sufferer is harassed by new panaceas claiming infallibility, and thus between the disease and the remedy, in most cases, the odds are most woefully against him.

Pliny, in a very sly way, insinuates that the display of so many ingredients, was "pour faire valoir le metier," or "*ad ostentationem artis;*" but Lord Bacon was, perhaps, nearer the truth, when he said, that the "multiplicity of remedies was the *child of ignorance.*"

The most ancient "Dispensatorium" was drawn up by Valerius Cordus. He seems to have first used this word for a collection of receipts, containing directions how to prepare the medicines, and for which, he had the sanction of the public magistrates.

1618.

In the peaceable reign of James I. a warrant was sent to all magistrates in the City of London, to take up all reputed Empiricks and Quacks, with other offenders of this nature, and to bring them before the Censors of the College; and the King himself sent letters to the Lord Mayor to the same effect. It is greatly to be lamented, that this legislative interference has not occurred more frequently. Our laws are not silent on this head.

Lord Coke, in his 4th Inst. 251, tells us, “ If one that is of the mystery of a physician, takes a man in cure, and giveth him such physick as within three days he die thereof, without any felonious intent, and against his will, it is no homicide.” And then proceeds to cite Britton, “ that if one that is not of the mystery of a physician or chirurgeon, take upon him the cure of a man, and he dieth of the potion or medicine, this is covert felony.” Serjeant Hawkins in his First Book of the Pleas of the Crown considers it manslaughter at least, if not murder.

## MINERAL WATERS.

In 1632, Dr. Jorden, of Bath, published a Discourse on Bristol Waters, before Tobias Venner; but he neither wrote from experience nor experiments. Venner, who seems to have been the Kitchener of his day, in selecting popular subjects, first brought the medicinal uses of water into notice; and it shortly became the fashion to resort to various mineral springs in different parts of the kingdom, so much so, that we find the great court physician, Sir Theodore Mayerne (1643) giving, according to his manuscript journal, “*Advis pour Monseigneur le Conte de Northumberland, sur l’usage des Eaux de Townebridge.*”

The mineral springs of Bath and Bristol were subsequently eulogised by many writers. Dr. Maplet, Dr. Guidot, Mr. Underhill, in *Thermologia*, Dr. Wynter, and lastly the authority of Dr. Mead, brought them into that reputation which they have since had.

In 1687, Dr. Patrick Madan published a “*Philosophical and Medical Essay on the Waters of Tonbridge, written to a person of honour*”, to whom the Doctor recommends these waters, to preserve him in health and long life in this world, and



hoping that God will grant him *immarcessible laurels* in that which is to come.

After this, various watering places sprung up, and for the sake of *health* and *fashion*, people left comfortable houses to live in hovels; and at some, it was no uncommon thing for ladies and gentlemen to sleep in the long room, the upper and lower part being only separated by a curtain. This was the case at Buxton, about a century ago; and at this present time, at Strathpepper, a sort of Scotch Harrogate, the fashionables inhabit small cabins, and for the sake of the wonder-working "*mineral*," the pigs and the patients are found in the same hotel.

What a strange thing it is, that so many should come,  
To be doctor'd to death, such a distance from home!

## PERUVIAN BARK.

“ In 1693, the Emperor Kanghi (then in the thirty-second year of his reign, and fortieth of his age) had a malignant fever, which resisted the remedies given by his physicians; the emperor recollected that Tchang-tchin, (Father Gerbillon) and Pe-tsin, (Father Bouret) two jesuit missionaries, had extolled to him a remedy for intermittents, brought from Europe, and to which they had given the name of chin-yo (two Chinese words, which signify “ *divine remedies* ;”) and he proposed to try it, but the physicians opposed it. The emperor, however, without their knowledge took it, and with good effect. Sometime afterwards, he experienced afresh several fits of an intermittent, which, though slight, made him uneasy; this led him to proclaim through the city, that any person possessed of a specific for this sort of fever, should apply without delay at the palace, where patients might also apply to get cured. Some of the great officers of his household were charged to receive such remedies as might be offered, and to administer them to the patients. The Europeans, Tchang-tching, (Gerbillon) Hang-jo, (Father de Fontenay, jesuit) and Pe-tsin, (Bouret) presented themselves among others, with a certain quantity of quinquina, offered it to the grandees, and instructed them in the manner of using it. The next day it was tried on several patients, who

were kept in sight, and were cured by it. The officers, or grandees who had been appointed to superintend the experiment, gave an account to the Emperor of the astonishing effect of the remedy, and the monarch decided instantly on trying it himself, provided the hereditary prince gave his consent. The prince, however, not only refused, but was angry with the grandees for having spoken so favorably of a remedy, of which only one successful trial had been made; at last, after much persuasion, the Prince reluctantly grants his consent, and the emperor takes the bark without hesitation, and permanently recovers. A house is given by the monarch to the Europeans, who had made known the remedy, and through the means of Pe-tsin, (Father Bouret) presents were conveyed to the King of France, accompanied with the information, that the Europeans (that is, the French jesuits) were in high favour." *Histoire Generale de la Chine*, &c. tome xi. p. 168, 4to. Paris, 1780.

This is a very voluminous work, which has never been translated, and the above is a translation, partly verbatim, but towards the end much curtailed.



## PLAGUE.

When the king and the court retired to Oxford, the physicians retired also, and the good citizens of London were left to their fate. There was one physician, however, whose philanthropy and firmness kept him on the spot, NATHANIEL HODGES, from whom we have the only authentic account of the progress and symptoms of the plague.

The most animated picture of that dreadful visitation is that drawn by De Foe, which has generally been considered a fiction, and, most undoubtedly, much fancy and interest is displayed in many of the scenes and characters of this curious work. There is no reason, however, why we should not credit a great part of his narrative; it is very natural, and coincides, in many particulars, with Evelyn, whose veracity cannot be questioned.

De Foe gives a spirited account of the multitude of quacks and mountebanks, and the success they met with: and complains bitterly of the regular physicians, and the great Sydenham among the rest. Dr. Hodges, however, he exempted from this reproach, as well as “the surgeons,” who seem to have had the task of examining the bodies, for which they were allowed “twelve pence,” to be

paid out of the goods of the party searched, if able, otherwise by the parish.

The office of *searcher*, which is continued to the present day, was at that period a very important one, and a noted body-searcher, whose name was SNACKS, finding his business increase so fast, that he could not compass it, offered to any person who should join him in his hazardous practice, half the profits; thus those who joined him were said to go with Snacks. Hence going *snacks*, or dividing the spoil.

Fortunately for us, we only know the Plague by report, much less are we acquainted with the traditional notions relative to its origin, and the *spectral visitations*, with which our remote ancestors are said to have been warned of an approaching plague or pestilence. The VAMPIRES and GOBLINS connected with pestilential diseases, have been long out of fashion; nevertheless, examples might be adduced to shew, that previously to the attack of the plague, or other epidemical diseases, a temporary delirium has affected the population, sufficiently to account for the conjuring up these *spectral delusions*..

“ The vampires of Iceland and of Greenland preceded an epidemic.” Equally ominous were the spirits, which, in the time of Justinian, “ were seen in human shape to intrude into the society of men,

after which *a most fearful pestilence* followed, and whosoever was touched by any of them most assuredly died." During the great plague in the sixth year of Constantine Copronymus, "many imagined that they saw hideous shapes mixing in human converse," or entering houses, and striking those who were destined to depart. It was believed at Constantinople, in the seventeenth century, and perhaps is still, that a gigantic female spectre stalks through the streets before the commencement of the plague.

It is true, these spectral delusions are out of fashion, and the hobgoblin of the nursery, and the tales of the fire-side no longer astonish us—philosophy now commands the electric aura, which "gleamed with portentous lustre on the point of the lance, or burnt round the helmet-crest, the omen of defeat, or the harbinger of victory." Yet while superstition gives a false colouring to facts, and ignorance distorts them, it may be questioned, whether on the whole, scepticism opposes greater obstacles to the knowledge of nature, than credulity.

The first steps taken by any governments for the prevention of infection from plague, were in Lombardy and Milan, in the years 1374, 1383, and 1399. These regulations arose, rather from the discretion of the police, than from any preconceived medical opinions.



The custom of forty days, for ordeal or quarantine, seems to have arisen from the doctrine of critical days; the fortieth day being considered as the last, or extreme of the critical days.

Bills of Health, arising out of this regulation, were established in 1527.

Among other regulations, in some countries the physicians were ordered to dress in a peculiar costume, of which the annexed sketch is a representation, and the surgeons were to wear something resembling the *scapulars* of the friars.

During the plague at Moscow, in 1771, the populace, in their frenzy, wished to take vengeance for the evils they suffered, on the persons of those who were labouring for their preservation: after having sacrificed one victim to their blind fury, they turned against the physicians and surgeons.

Before 1665, the plague visited this country about every half century; since that calamitous year, this happy land has known nothing of its ravages, and so many generations have lived and died in security, that the clause in the litany which implores preservation “from plague and pestilence,” has lost much of the earnestness with which it was formerly uttered.



*Published August 1827, by Callow & Wilson, London.*

*mask worn by Physicians  
attending cases of plague.*





## ASTROLOGICAL PRACTICE.

The doctrines of scientific medicine, descend from that small body of educated men, who devote themselves to it as a profession. With these, though accompanied with the enlightened spirit of philosophy and science, it has occasionally been tinctured with the current philosophical opinions, and deformed by most ridiculous absurdities.

It is no less curious than instructive, to compare the superstition of by-gone times with the enlightened condition of the present period. In the early ages, medicine was not only a superstitious, but an empirical art. The understandings of men being unable to account for any deviation from the usual course of nature, referred it to some supernatural power, and sought for the cure and prevention of diseases from their deities. “*Morbos*”, says Celsus, “*verò ad iram Deorum immortalium relatos, et ab eisdem opem posci solitam.*”

This superstition, aided by the natural desire to pry into futurity, and avert impending diseases, very easily accounts for the introduction of Astrology into the practice of medicine, and the host of ignorant pretenders, who have supplied what they wanted in science, and knowledge of the human

structure, by a large portion of enthusiasm and craft.

Of the barbarous state of medicine in this country, in Chaucer's time, we are informed by the character of an M. D. of his acquaintance, who was such a wonderfully learned doctor, that

“ In al the world was there non *hym lyk*,  
To speke of Physik and of Surgerye ;  
For he was groundit in *Astronomy*.”

So late as the reign of James the First, the study of astrology was deemed necessary to a physician, for we find by Goodall's History of the Royal College of Physicians, at the examination of a candidate, the following learned question, and equally learned answer.

“ *Being asked in astrology what house he looketh into to know a disease, or the event of it : and how the Lord ascendent should stand thereto ?*”

He answereth, he looks for the sixth house ; which being disproved, he saith, he understands nothing therein but what he hath out of *Caliman* ; and being asked what books he hath read in the art, he saith he hath none but *Caliman*.

The reign of Charles the Second was very prolific in astrological doctors, who were patronized by the court. Ashmole in his diary says, “ I this day

mov'd my Lord Archbishop of Canterbury for a license for Mr. Lilly, the astrologer, to practice physick, which he granted." The most conspicuous was one who writes of himself that " *Medicinam fecit duobus Regibus unius Reginæ, Carolo scilicet Secundo, Willielmo Tertio, Reginæque Mariæ.*" This exalted character was no less a personage than Partridge the almanack maker, who when he had learned to read, and " *a little to write,*" was bound apprentice to a shoemaker, an occupation which he followed, so late as the year 1680, within two years of his being styled *Physician to His Majesty*, in the title page of one of his books, which, like the rest of his works, would have passed into oblivion, had not their author fallen under the lash of a celebrated wit, which will make the ridiculous part of his character remembered, when the rest of his personal history shall be forgotten. His writings consist of the grossest astrological absurdities, such as " *Prodromus,*" " *The King of France's Nativity,*" and a " *Discourse of the Two Moons.*"

It is one of the peculiarities of medical superstition, that it attributes every ordinary and natural effect to extraordinary and unnatural causes; thus we find in the times of superstitious delusion, that even the salutary effects of well known herbs, were attributed to the influence of the planet, under whose ascendancy they were collected, rather than any intrinsic property in the herb itself. Every one is acquainted with the solemnity of the ceremonies



resorted to by the Druids of our own isle, who were both priests and physicians, in gathering plants for medical purposes. *Black hellebore* was not to be cut, but plucked with the right hand covered with a portion of the robe, then conveyed secretly to the left. *Vervain*, a plant much used in magical operations, was to be gathered at the rising of the *dog-star*, when neither *sun nor moon shone*, an expiatory sacrifice of fruit and honey having been previously offered to the earth; when thus prepared, it rendered a person invulnerable, vanquished fevers, was a charm to conciliate friendship, and an antidote to poison!

The same mummary was employed in gathering *mistletoe*, which was cut with a golden knife, *only when the moon was six days old*, and which was esteemed of so much value, that it was believed the gods expressly sent it down for the benefit of mankind. When thus mystically gathered, it was like Solomon's Balm of Gilead, or Dutchman's Butter, "good for every thing." "Hence," says Mons<sup>r</sup>. de Grands Prez, (who swears, that Peony gathered when the *moon* is descendent in the sign Aries, cures the Falling Sickness). "*Hence it is apparent, of what consequence astrology is in the practice of physick.*"

We are not to be surprised therefore, that these opinions should influence the minds of the lower orders, and that Brande should have given these lunar phantasies a conspicuous place in his "Popu-



lar Antiquities," when a dose of physic could not be taken by the *Οἱ Πολλοί* without consulting the state of the moon. "Electuaries being good, the moon in Cancer, and pills, the moon in Pisces."

Much less ought we to wonder at the credulity displayed by the illiterate and the ignorant, when we find men of liberal scholarship gravely recording of the great Lord Bacon, that "he fainted always at the eclipse of the moon, though he knew not of it, and considered it not." *Lloyd's State Worthies*, p. 837. And the celebrated and learned Mead, not only entertaining these opinions, but attempting to reduce the phenomena by which the supposed lunar influence operated on disease, to methodical order, and seriously and circumstantially narrating the case of a girl, whose life was despaired of from periodical convulsions. "At *full moon*," says he, "her convulsions were always most violent, and they decreased with the waning moon. While the tide flowed, she was deprived of speech, which she recovered during the ebb. *Her father, who was a waterman on the Thames, had long observed these periodical recurrences, and was so accustomed to consider his child better or worse, according to the state of the tide, that although he heard her cries during the reflux, he had no occasion to enter his house to learn the state of her health.*"

The estimation in which astrology was formerly

held, may be seen by the College making it an object of examination, and a physician without a knowledge of the stars, was considered incompetent to know either the cause or cure of disease; “*Medicus sine cœli peritia nihil est,*” was the dogma of the schools. Astronomy gave birth to judicial astrology, and the credulity of mankind gave it an importance, that introduced its mysteries into the practice of medicine.

Let us bless our *stars*, that we live in an age, when it is not the fashion for the planets to influence these matters; and when, with becoming modesty, it is doubted whether Infinite Wisdom has permitted us to scrutinize into futurity, by lunar observations.

“*Prudens futuri temporis exitum  
Caliginosa nocte premit.*”

*Hor.*

## TREPANNING.

The operation of trepanning is very ancient, and was seldom performed without great caution. A proof of this is given in the early history of Ireland. Connor Mac Neassa, King of Ulster, that generous protector of the literati of his day, and contemporary with Julius Cæsar, having his skull fractured in battle, his first surgeon, Finighin, refused to apply the trepan till his safety was guaranteed by the nobles of the country, in case it did not succeed.

Van Roonhuyse, in his *Medico-Chirurgical Observations*, has a chapter, in which he treats “of the modern use and abuse of Trepanning,” and shews, that this operation is not so often necessary, nor useful, as it is vulgarly supposed.

Vidus Vidius tells us, that Perusius, a Roman surgeon of his time, averred, that more people recovered without the use of the trepan than with it.



## HORTUS MEDICUS.

The botanical garden at Oxford, was originally intended as a “Hortus Medicus,” but now the medical department forms the smallest portion; and, indeed, Botany has been superseded by the more fashionable pursuits of Geology.

The entrance is from a design of Inigo Jones's, and the statues of Charles I. and the Earl of Danby which embellish it, were erected out of a fine, imposed on Ant. à Wood.

A curious anecdote of Jacob Bobart, keeper of the physic garden at Oxford, occurs in one of Grey's notes to *Hudibras*—“He made a dead rat resemble the common picture of dragons, by altering its head and tail, and thrusting in taper sharp sticks, which distended the skin on each side till it resembled wings. He let it dry as hard as possible. The learned immediately pronounced it a dragon; and one of them sent an accurate description of it to Dr. Magliabecchi, librarian to the Grand Duke of Tuscany; several fine copies of verses were wrote on so rare a subject; but at last Mr. Bobart owned the cheat. However, it was looked upon as a masterpiece of the art; and, as such, deposited in the Museum.”

## MILITARY DIPLOMAS.

During the civil wars, we find many distinguished Doctors acting as Captains, and commanding cavalry and infantry. The illustrious Harvey commanded a troop of horse. When fighting got a little out of fashion, many military men, by way of continuing

“ To bleed for their own,  
And their country’s good,”

became practitioners in medicine, and for this purpose were created, by a sort of military mandate, Doctors of Medicine. Thus we find Captain Anthony Morgan (1647) created Doctor of Medicine at Oxford, by virtue of letters sent by Fairfax, General of the Parliament Army; his chief recommendation being, that he had faithfully behaved himself in the public service, *i. e.* the service of the parliament. Major General Aston, Col. Spencer Lucir, and others, were made Doctors of Medicine, and many singular persons had the degree conferred on them; and a little before this period, we find Garter King at Arms, Knight of the Bath, and M. P. adding M. D. to the list of his titles. These were truly bloody times.

## PHLEBOTOMY.

This remedy, if we believe Pliny, was derived to mankind, like some others, from observing the operation performed by an animal on itself. The *Hippopotamus*, we are informed by ancient philosophers, when she perceives herself fat and unwieldy, moves about upon the sharpest points of broken reeds, and having drawn blood from her feet and limbs, very surgically closes the wounds by a plaister of mud. But we leave this, and the venesection of the Pelican, to be decided by the learned, and come to more practical views of the subject. *which do not require learning - only common sense.*

Hippocrates was the first who authorized bleeding, Galen extended its use, and it continued an unquestioned remedy till Paracelsus. He first raised disputes about it, and from his time it has been a subject of much contention and controversy, which, considering its great importance, is not to be wondered at; for if it be powerful in preserving life, it is also powerful in destroying it.

In France, the controversy was carried to a disgraceful extent, and in 1600, an edict was passed by the University of Paris, which drove Dr. Peter Brissot into exile, for venturing to deviate from the established custom of bleeding in a pleurisy, or any local disease, in the arm opposite to the part



affected, which was thought necessary to make a proper revulsion. That such a dispute should have become a matter of universal concern, both in church and state, deserves to be recorded as one of the most singular events in the history of physic. ✱

In this country, phlebotomy has been greatly patronized; and in the early ages, some of the abbeyes had a *bleeding-house*, called *Phlebotomaria*, in which they had four general quarterly bleedings; and in the order of St. Victor, the brethren had five bleedings per annum !

Half a century back, bleeding was greatly in fashion, particularly *spring* and *fall*; and surgeons were the operators, who were never seen without a box of lancets and a red fillet. The lancet was then considered a *surgical* instrument, and a fashionable *phlebotomizing surgeon* has been known to receive above a thousand guineas per annum for phlebotomy alone. So much was this operation then considered as belonging to *surgery*, that some of the old surgical writers give a long chapter on the subject, divided into several heads, as—

1. What is to limit bleeding ?
2. Qualities of an able phlebotomist.
3. Of the choice of instruments.
4. Of the band and bolster.
5. Of porringers.

The surgeons were not allowed to think. - The Church called them "uneducated" - & they were under the heel. -

6. Circumstances to be considered at the bleeding of a prince.

7. Exterior disposition of the surgeon, &c. &c.

and in the middle of the last century, the surgeons asserted their right to the lancet, and many books were written against the “ Abuse of Phlebotomy, by Barbers and other unskilful persons.”

So important was this operation considered at one time, that when a Royal Person was to be bled, it was necessary to have the authority of the Privy Council; and Sir Charles Scarborough, for the personal responsibility he took upon himself, in bleeding King Charles upon the instant, was voted by the Privy Council, one thousand guineas, which was never paid.

There has been a culpable acquiescence with vulgar opinion about bleeding: the *quo-modo* and *quando*, is a matter of nice surgical discrimination. The use and abuse of this operation, has been pointedly touched by Mr. Charles Bell, who when ridiculing the folly of those who are influenced by popular opinion, in bleeding *immediately* after contusion, or concussion, says, “ At the critical juncture that the surgeon bleeds, the old woman gives her drachm; and in this, the old woman does right.” Sir Astley Cooper, who knows *how* and *when*, as well as any man in Europe, and who even loves a joke too, remarks, “ if a surgeon were to

say he bled a man for falling on his head, it would be no answer, for shaking the head might shake blood from it, but not to it." There has been a certain *routineism* from the earliest ages, and it would be an easy matter to plead the precept of the ancients, for the sweeping maxim of bleeding every one who tumbled down.

Among other vulgar prejudices, for how many ages was it thought fatal to bleed a child before it attained the age of fourteen years; a heresy which we should perhaps have lived in to this day, had it not been for Averroes, who ventured to make the first experiment on his son, aged six years, whom he cured of pleurisy. Our modern doctors, however, have no qualms of this sort, they bleed a child as soon as it is born, at least those who are "*famous for children's complaints*," and with scientific vigour pursue measures, which to "*nous autres*," not so deeply initiated in these *puerile* concerns, seems better suited to an adult, (or an alderman,) than an infant.



## CHOCOLATE.

An advertisement in "The Public Adviser," from Tuesday, June 16th, to Tuesday, June 23d, 1657, informs us that "in Bishopsgate-street, in Queen's-head Alley, at a Frenchman's House, is an excellent West India drink, called *Chocolate*, to be sold, where you may have it ready at any time, and also unmade, at reasonable rates."

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## COFFEE.

In a previous number of the paper just mentioned, from May 19, to May 26, 1657, "In Bartholomew-lane, on the back side of the Old Exchange, the drink called *Coffee* is advertised as to be sold *in the morning*, and at *three of the clock* in the afternoon."

## TEA.

A folio sheet of the time of Charles II. entitled “An Exact Description of the Growth, Quality, and Virtues of the Leaf Tea, by Thomas Garway, in Exchange Alley, near the Royal Exchange in London, Tobacconist, and Seller and Retailer of Tea, and Coffee,” informs that “in England it hath been sold in the leaf for six pounds, and sometimes for ten pounds the pound weight; and in respect of its former scarceness and dearness, it hath been only used as a regalia in high treatments, and entertainments, and presents made thereof to princes and grandees till the year 1657. The said Thomas Garway did purchase a quantity thereof, and first publicly sold the said Tea in leaf and drink, made according to the direction of the most knowing merchants and travellers in those eastern countries: and upon knowledge and experience of the said Garway’s continued care and industry, in obtaining the best Tea, and making drink thereof, very many noblemen, physicians, merchants, and gentlemen of quality, have ever since sent to him for the said leaf, and daily resort to his house, in Exchange Alley, to drink the drink thereof.”

It was the eulogy of the Queen of Charles II. that afterwards brought it into general use.

## VALENTINE GREATRAKE.

This grand quack attempted to cure the king's evil, as it was called, by stroking the parts with his hands. Mr. Stubbe published, at Oxford, a pamphlet on these cures in a letter to the Hon. Robert Boyle, which the latter disapproved of, because Stubbe pretended that Greatrake's gift was miraculous. Mr. Boyle, however, attested some of his remarkable cures, which were most likely effected by the force of imagination in his patients. This mode of curing diseases by stroking, caused several pamphlets to appear, pro and con; particularly one in quarto, entitled "Murders no Miracles; or Mr. V. Greatrake's gift of healing examined, upon occasion of a sad effect of his stroking, March 7, 1665." This was written by Mr. David Floyd, reader of the Charter House. The Rev. Mr. Grainger alludes to this quack, and thought he varied his manner of stroking of the different sexes.

Afterwards, John Leverett, a gardener, undertook also to cure the king's evil by touching or stroking with the hand. This was in the reign of Charles I. Leverett affirmed, he was the seventh son of a seventh son, and used to say, "That he felt virtue go out of him, and that he was more exhausted by touching thirty or forty in a day, than by digging eight roods of ground." The censors of the College



of Physicians, however, put an end to his fame and his practice by one stroke.

Nor were these the only pretenders. Aubrey speaks of “ Samuel Scot, seventh son of Mr. Wm. Scot, of Hendington, Wiltshire, who did, when a *child*, wonderful cures by touching only, viz. the king’s evil, wens, &c.; but as he grew to be a man, the virtue went out of him.” “ It is manifest, by experience, that the seventh male child, by just order, (never a girl or wench being born between,) doth heal only with touching, (through a natural gift,) the king’s evil, which is a special gift of God, given to kings or queens, as daily experience doth witnesse.” *Lupten’s Thousand Notable Things*, p. 25.

The *Scots* have, from that time to this, been a wonder-working race, and perfect masters of *finger-ing* and *thumbing*. *Vide Nugæ Chirurgicæ*, p. 215.

## TAPPING.

In the Transactions of the Royal Society, vol. xlix. is an account of an attempt to improve the operation of Tapping, by injecting the abdomen with claret; but, with a laudable candour and regard to truth, having failed in *three* instances out of *four*, the proposer gives it up!

Brunner, in the *Miscell. Nat. Curios. Decad. 2. An. 8.* directs a tincture prepared of myrrh, aloes, and camphorated spirits of wine, to be injected, in order to prevent the putrefaction of the serum contained in the abdomen, which easily happens by the admission of the air after paracentesis. “Nor,” adds he, “have we any reason to be afraid of this preparation in the abdomen; for it is so far corrected by the water lodged there, that the tendons and nerves are not in the least irritated by it; for, in a dog, when the intestines have been inflamed, I have, with success, used spirit of turpentine, which is still hotter.

Another foreign philosopher, Mons. Gallandat, proposes a still more singular method of curing diseases, by an *artificial emphysema*, which consists in conveying air by means of an incision in the skin. This method is employed for the removal of *marasmus, hypochondriacal and rheumatic complaints.* *New Mem. of R<sup>e</sup>. Acad. of Sciences, Berlin, 1772.*

## STOMACH BRUSH.

One of the court physicians in the reign of Charles II., invented an instrument to cleanse the stomach, and wrote a pamphlet on it; and ridiculous as a chylopoietic-scrubbing-brush may appear, it afterwards got a place among surgical instruments, and is described as the *Excutea Ventriculi*, or cleanser of the stomach; but the moderns not having *stomach* for it, have transferred it to the wine merchant, who more appropriately applies it to the scouring the interior of bottles. Heister gives a minute description of it, and very gravely enters on the mode and manner of using it: the patient is to drink a draught of warm water, or spirit of wine, that the mucus and foulness of the stomach may be washed off thereby: then, the brush being moistened in some convenient liquor, is to be introduced into the œsophagus, and slowly protruded into the stomach, by twisting round its wire handle. When arrived in the stomach, it is to be drawn up and down, and through the œsophagus, like the sucker in a syringe, till it be at last wholly extracted. Some recommend plentiful drinking in the operation, to be continued till no more foulness is discharged. But though this contrivance is greatly extolled, and said to prolong life to a great age, especially if practised once a week, month, or fortnight; yet there are



very few (probably because tried by very few) instances of its happy effects. More may be seen on this head, in a controversy published on the subject, between *Weddius* and *Teichmerius*, in which this is demonstrated to be no new instrument, having been long described by others.

All King Charles's physicians seem to have been jolly fellows. Toby Whitaker was much more a friend to the vintner than to the apothecary, and wrote to prove the "possibility of maintaining life from infancy to old age without sickness, by *the use of wine*." While the courteous Dr. Archer was pleased to make a very agreeable addition to the five senses.

## AMATEUR PRACTITIONERS.

Among the earliest amateur writers, was the celebrated Needham, the author of the first Newspaper. He wrote, among other things, “*Medela Medicinæ, a Plea for the free Profession and Renovation of the Art of Physic,*” Lond. 1665; and a Preface to the work of Francis de la Boe, Sylvius, Lond. 1675, in which he hints an intention of writing some essays to discover the power of plants, by examining their natures upon the principles and operations of the chemists. As might be supposed, he holds the University and its degrees very cheap—he calls it the scholastic family of a fine breed—the doctoral confederates, who come to town with the learned cushion, cap, and scarlet. “The Apothecarie’s boys,” says he, “are able to tutor them in their town practice—they vaunt and make a noise with their anatomical rattle—spend much time in anatomy—neglect the chemical way.”

This attack, as might be supposed, brought on him the ire of the College, and he was accordingly castigated by two of its fellows, namely, John Twysden, and Robert Sprakling; but our author treats their lectures with great contempt, and says, “one I hear is often buried in ale at the Hole-in-the-Wall, (i. e. a *Public-house*), and the other hath

asked my pardon before company, confessing that he was set on by the brotherhood of the confederacy."

Dr. Bulleyn gives us a long list of knights and dames, *amateur practitioners* in surgery and medicine, in the reign of Elizabeth, when surgeons were scarce, and quackery had not opened its numerous warehouses. "Many good men and women," says he, "within this realme, have divers and sundry medicines for the canker, and do help their neighbours, which be only poore and needy, having no money to spend in chirurgerie;" and then he enumerates Sir Thomas Eliot, whose works be immortal; Sir Philip Parris, whose cures deserves prayse; Sir W<sup>m</sup>. Gascoyne that helpeth sore eyes; and the Lady Taylor and the Lady Darrel, both of whom had many precious medicines, and were *well seene in herbs*. But above all was a "godly hurtlesse gentleman, Sir Andrew Haveningham, who learned a water to kill a canker of his own mother."

About this time died the Earl of Derby, famous for his skill in *chirurgery and bone-setting*, and the Earl of Herfurth, who was holden a *gud surgeon*.

Buchanan informs us, that the Scots' nobility were remarkably dexterous in the *chirurgical art*; and he says of James IV. "*Quod vulnera scientissime tractaret*:" nay, he was (says Lindsay) such "a



*cunning chirurgion*, that none in his realm who used that craft, but would take his counsel in all their proceedings." Sometimes he tried eccentric experiments, as when he "gar't take a dumb woman and put her into Inch Keith, and gave her two young bairns in company with her; and gar't furnish them with all necessaries, viz. meat, drink, fire, and clothes; with all other kind of necessaries which are required by man or woman, desiring to understand what language their bairns could speak when they came to lawful age. Some say they spake good Hebrew; but as to myself, I know not, (adds the Laird of Pittscottie) but by the author's report."

We have another royal amateur practitioner in Peter the First of Russia. He was a *great phlebotomist*, *drew teeth*, *tapped for the dropsy*, and performed several other chirurgical operations.

The list of the College of Physicians presents us with some noble licensed amateurs, as the Marquis of Dorchester, the Electoral Prince Charles, His Grace the Duke of Montague, and His Grace the Duke of Richmond; though it does not appear that these noble doctors ever brought their medical propensities into action, like the *chirurgical* grantees above alluded to.

In the "Nosologia Methodica" of Sauvage, we find ten classes, forty-three orders, and more than

three hundred genera, in many of which are from ten to twelve species of disease, each distinguished from the other, and denominated by its original cause ; and there have been described one hundred and eighteen diseases of the eye alone ! Notwithstanding this long catalogue of maladies, the amateur proceeds boldly to work, and none more so than the clerical amateur.

In *Carew's Survey of Cornwall*, p. 60, is a curious account of the method of practice of Mr. Atwell, Rector of St. Tuc, in that County, who was, according to fame, a most successful amateur.

Another Reverend Gentleman, in writing “ Directions for Health,” apologizes for intruding into other men’s business:—“ For all that I am not a practitioner in this noble science, yet my chiefest pleasure, ever since my childhood, has been to read books of physic, in regard of my own health.”

Wm. Vicars, an amateur Master of Arts, has “ An Easie and Safe Method for Curing the King’s Evil ;” and a country squire, John Morly, of Halsted, in Essex, (1788.) cures the same complaint by a portion of the Vervain, hung round the neck with a yard of white satin ribbon, with “ I pray God give his blessing to these my endeavours.”

But the most poetical of these professors, was Colonel Riddell, who furnishes an instance of a

gentleman-physician, imagining that he has made a discovery, which would overturn the accumulated experience of ages, and sanctioned by the testimonies of a long list of Lords, Ladies, Mayors, Clergymen, and Laymen, of all denominations, he publishes in 1808, a “New System,” dignified with the title of “*Riddellian System*.”

Arts, trades, and manufactures, are generally supposed to be best understood by those who devote their lives to the study of them; but the “conjectural art of medicine” seems to be an extraordinary exception to this general rule. The desire of health and wealth, puts all understandings on a level, and the great portion of the public, even “the most thinking people,” are as willing dupes in this matter, as the most ignorant.

An amateur practitioner wishing upon one occasion, in the Court of King’s Bench, to convince Lord Ellenborough of his importance, said “My Lord, I sometimes *employ myself* as a Doctor;” “Very likely, Sir,” said his Lordship dryly, “but is *any body else* fool enough to employ you in that capacity?”



## KING'S EVIL.

The cure of Scrophula by the Royal Touch, is the most singular species of quackery in the history of superstition. Lord Bacon says, that imagination is next akin to miracle-working faith. There was seemingly some of both, and a little money to boot, to keep this remedy in fashion; and as each patient touched a bit of gold, we may suppose, in this, as in other complaints, that some were cured of the king's evil, who never had any other *evil* than that of poverty, which brought more patients and more fame to these royal practitioners than they deserved.

“ The curing of the king's evil (says Aubrey) by the touch of the king, does much puzzle our philosophers; for whether the kings were of the house of York or Lancaster, it did the cure; (*i. e.*) for the most part. 'Tis true, indeed, at the touching there are prayers read; but perhaps neither the King attends them, nor his chaplains.”

The French Kings pretend to a greater antiquity in the exercise of this miraculous gift. We do not go higher than 1066, to Edward the Confessor, but our Gallic neighbours dated theirs from Clovis, 481. Mezeray says, that this king cured one of his favourites. This gift, however, seems to have

fallen to decay in the time of Lewis XI.; for he having an apoplexy, sent for a famous man to cure him, by the name of Francis of Poul. Francis unhappily had the evil; but alas! the saint could not cure the king; and what was equally unfortunate, the king could not cure the saint.

Our King George I. had the good sense not to pretend to this marvellous power, but the French Kings kept up the farce till 1775. Lewis XV. touched no less than 2000 persons, and his predecessor 2500. The Kings of Scotland did not pretend to this gift, but when their James the VIth. came to the throne of England, the virtue straight appeared in him.

In 1684, John Browne, surgeon to the King, published his “Adenochoiradelogia, or king’s evil swellings, together with the royal gift of healing or cure thereof, by imposition of hands, performed for above 640 years by our kings.” He gives an account of the number of persons touched for the king’s evil from May 1660, to Sept. 1664, by King Charles II., viz.

In 1660	-	-	-	-	-	-	6725
1661	-	-	-	-	-	-	4619
1662	-	-	-	-	-	-	4275
1663	-	-	-	-	-	-	4667
1664	-	-	-	-	-	-	3335

And from another account, by Mr. Thomas Dank-

ley, it appears, that monarch, from 1667 to 1682, actually touched, on the average, 4000 people every year.

There occurred in the 30th of Charles II. (1684), a curious trial of Thomas Rosewell, for high treason. The words in the indictment charged him with saying, that “The people made a flocking to the king, upon pretence of being healed of the king’s evil, which he could not do, but that they, being priests and prophets, could by their prayers do as much.” Rosewell proved it, by instancing the prophet that came to Jeroboam, and reproved him at the altar of Bethel; “and the king stretched forth his arm, and did lay hold of him, and the king’s hand was dried up. And the prophet prayed to the Lord, and the king’s arm was restored.” He was further accused of applying the story “of Dalilah and Sampson; and (says the witness) you did not question but, in the end, the ladies would serve the king as Dalilah did Sampson.” Rosewell objected to the latin in the indictment; that *Morbus Regni Anglici* was the disease of the English kingdom, and could not be made to signify the king’s evil. During the trial, Judge Jeffries told Rosewell’s witnesses “We know well enough you snivelling saints can lie;” and so on. Rosewell was found guilty, but pardoned; the sole exclusive patent of curing the king’s evil still lying with royalty.



## COLLEGE OF PHYSICIANS, DUBLIN.

In 1691, a Society of Physicians in Dublin was incorporated by Royal Charter, under the name of “The King’s and Queen’s College of Physicians.” This Charter purported to arm the society with powers of an extraordinary and extensive nature, which, (if confirmed by Act of Parliament,) would vest in them a monopoly of the practice of physic, as well as of medical honours; one of its provisions directed “That no Physicians or other persons, should be permitted to practice physic in the City of Dublin, or its Liberties, without the license of this Society.”

The charter, however, has not acquired any legal validity in this particular; for its confirmation has never been obtained from the legislature, although frequently solicited.

The legislature has, however, recognised the existence of this society, without adopting its charter.

Thus in 1761, an Act was passed, authorising the King’s and Queen’s College of Physicians in Ireland, to enlarge their number by admitting four learned and worthy Doctors of Physic into the fellowship of their body—to appoint inspectors of

apothecaries' shops—to frame a Pharmacopœia, or Code of Drugs, &c.

In 1767, it was enacted, that no person should be appointed physician to any County Infirmary, unless examined and certified by this College of Physicians.

In 1785 and 1791, this College was empowered to elect the members of a School of Physic, to be established in Dublin, to consist of three professors, (and upon a certain contingency, of four professors,) called professors upon the foundation of Sir Patrick Dunn; and to appoint clinical lectures, to be given in Dublin.

This College has also been incidentally noticed by the legislature upon other occasions of lesser importance, but without any addition to its powers.

## CANTHARIDES.

In the year 1693, Dr. Grøenevelt was cited before the College of Physicians, on account of prescribing Cantharides in substance to a woman in Southwark. He vindicated the practice. He was afterwards taken up by a warrant from the President and Censors, and was committed to Newgate. He was ruined, but the reputation of Cantharides was established.

Dr. Grøenevelt, gave the College considerable trouble before he was committed to Newgate, for prescribing Cantharides. He undertook, (being like some of the moderns, an operating doctor,) to cut a Mr. Hawes for the Stone, for the sum of £20. the whole or greater part of which, was to be returned if he did not succeed. The operation, as might be supposed, failed; and as he, like a true quack, would not consult a physician, the widow, Mrs. Hawes, cited him before the College, who, as arbitrators, made a decree on the case, and both parties retired satisfied with the award.

In the same year, Pietro Silvester, a French Refugée, was admitted under singular circumstances, and in consideration of his poverty, half his admission fee was remitted.



## THE PULSE.

The earliest writer on this subject was Ægimus, who wrote Περί Παλμῶν; but the first to count the pulsations of the arteries, and number of beats in a given time, was Sir John Floyer, and a work called the “Physician’s Pulse Watch,” and a scale enumerating various modifications, as quick, slow, hard, soft, strong, weak, was the result of his attention to the subject.

Previously to this, the pulse was felt with a view of forming a prognosis; and a very excellent account is given by Dr. Cox, (1737) of the pulse discoveries of a Dr. Solano, who, when a very young man, astonished his grave seniors, by predicting a crisis from the intermission of the pulse, contrary to all the established rules from the time of Galen.

The Chinese physicians, however, go beyond Doctor Solano; for, after feeling the arms of a sick man in *three places*, they judge the cause, nature, danger, and duration of the disorder, and, without the patient’s speaking, reveal infallibly what is the part affected! which is rather more than my friends of the “Pow wow” Club, in St. James’s, attempt to do.

## WHIMSICAL WORKS.

The most fanciful, and the most whimsical of all medical eccentricities, are those furnished by astrological practitioners, and quacks. One gentleman treats of the “*Three Principles in Nature, in Three Books.*”—Another writes a “*Denarian Tract, shewing how to cure all Diseases with Ten Medicaments;*” while a third calculates the first appearance of Adam in Paradise to have been *precisely at Twelve o’Clock, P. M. April 24, exactly the year 4002, before Christ.*”

In 1608, another calculating doctor, published “*LAWREÆ APOLLINARES,*” a quarto volume, in which the following question is discussed:—

“Whether animals and fools can be cured by the same remedies?”

Agreed in the affirmative!

Among the diseases of the mind, noticed by these conjurors, is an infirmity, most learnedly called, in Greek, Hereos; in Latin, Amor; and in English, Love-Sick. On this subject, “*L’Antidote de l’Amour,*” by John Aubrey; and “*Erotomia,*” or a Treatise on the Cure of Love, or Erotique Melancholy, by James Farrand, M. D. are most

curious and scarce. This latter is particularly noticed by Beloe.

Among the Sloane collection at the British Museum, are some singular works connected with this subject, and one whimsical fellow very gravely treats of “The Manner of Buckling up Youngue Men!”

But of all oddities, that most curious banter on the Hermetic Philosophy, “*Hermippus Redivivus*,” is the most extraordinary. The notion of prolonging life by inhaling the breath of young women, was an agreeable doctrine easily credited; and one physician, who had himself written on health, was so influenced by it, that he actually took lodgings at a ladies’ boarding school, that he might never be without a constant supply of the proper atmosphere. Philip Thicknesse, who wrote the “*Vale-tudinarian’s Guide*,” 1779, seems to have taken a dose whenever he could. “I am myself,” says he, “turned of sixty, and in general, though I have lived in various climates, and suffered severely both in body and mind; yet having always partaken of the breath of *young women, whenever they lay in my way*, I feel none of the infirmities which so often strike the eyes and ears in this great city (Bath) of sickness, by men many years younger than myself.”

It is not perhaps generally known, that *Hermippus Redivivus*, was founded on the following in-



scription, said to be preserved in Reinesius's Supplement to Gruter:—

Æsculapio et Sanatati  
L. Clodius Hermippus  
Qui Vixit Annos CXV. Dies V.  
Puellarum Anhelitu,  
Quod etiam Post Mortem  
Ejus  
Non Parum Miranter Physici.  
Jam Posterī sic Vitam Ducite.

Basil Valentine, who lived towards the end of the fifteenth century, published a singular work, called “*Currus Triumphalis Antimonii*.” Valentine ranks among the first who introduced metallic preparations into medicine; and is supposed to be the first that ever used the word antimony. According to the prevailing custom of the age, he boasted of supernatural assistance, and is very pious in exhortations to charity and benevolence; but very shortly forgetting himself, he breaks out in the most virulent invective—“ye wretched and pitiful medicasters—you titular doctors—you apothecaries, with your decoctions!—you I say, who have, hitherto, been blind, suffer a collyrium to be poured into your eyes, and permit me to anoint them with balsam, that this ignorance may fall from your sight, and that you may behold truth as in a clear glass! But,” says Basil Valentine, after proceeding in this strain for some length, “I will put an end to my

discourse, lest my tears which I can scarcely prevent continually falling from my eyes, should blot my writing; and whilst I deplore the blindness of the world, blemish the lamentation which I would publish to all men."

James Yonge, (1682), published "for the encouragement of young Chirurgeons, a Vindication of the Author," with the following title page:—

"Wounds of the Brain proved curable, not only by the opinion and experience of many of the best authors, but the remarkable history of a child four years old, cured of two very large depressions, with the loss of a great part of the skull, a portion of the brain also issuing through a penetrating wound of the Dura and Pia Mater."

The Author having performed this wonderful cure, and being envied the credit thereof, by a spiteful doctor, of Plymouth, who affirmed that wounds of the brain were absolutely mortal, there arose a dispute between them, which the author silenced, by the evidence of several who saw divers days, those portions of the brain that came forth, and by a catalogue of quotations from above fifty authors, both in Physic and Chirurgery.

About the year 1722, sprung up the learned Dr. Hancocke, a Prebendary of Canterbury, who instructed the sick and ailing to cure themselves with

*cold water and stewed prunes*, but the doctor was silenced by a facetious fellow, who wrote “Flagellum; or a dry answer to Dr. Hancock’s wonderfully comical Liquid Book, which he merrily calls Febrifugum Magnum, or Common Water the best Cure for Fever, &c. A book proved beyond contradiction to be wrote when the Doctor was asleep; wherein not only many obscure passages in that great performance, (which neither the doctor nor any body else understood the meaning of,) are ironically explained to the meanest capacity, but the use and excellency of cold water and stewed prunes is also cleared up, very fit to be bound up with the Doctor’s book. Second edition, with a postscript containing a few merry reflections on a late bombastick pamphlet in defence of the Doctor’s book, wrote by one Tom Taylor, the first-born of all the sons of stupidity, and bull-rider to the Bear garden,” 8vo.

One author undertakes to cure all diseases by music, another produces the same happy effects by snuff and sneezing, in a work entitled “*Sternutatorium Hemicraniologicum*, or the Arte of Sneezing at will, and curing all sortes of Megrims and Disorders of the Head, by Thomas Whishe, practitioner extra to the King’s Grace.” Black letter, 4to. no date.

The learned Erasmus wrote a book in “Praise of Folly,” and some learned doctors following his



example, have eulogized plague, pestilence, and gout; thus we have “l’Eloge de la Fievre,” “l’Eloge de la Peste,” not forgetting “l’Eloge de l’Ivresse,” and lastly, the luxury of the gout, set forth in a violent paroxysm by Philander Misaurus, (1699), who dedicates his book “To all the numerous offspring of *Apollo*, whether *dogmatical* sons of art, or *empirical* by-blows. To all *pharmaceutical* residents in Town or City; also to all strolling practitioners and imposters.” The nature of the work and the Doctor’s opinions, may be learnt from the modesty of the title page:—“The Honour of the Gout, or a rational Discourse, demonstrating, that the Gout is one of the *greatest Blessings* which can befall mortal Man; that all *Gentlemen* who are weary of it, are their own Enemies; that those *Practitioners* who offer at the *Cure*, are the vainest and most mischievous *Cheats* in Nature.”

Among the whimsicalities in which the learned have indulged their fancy, might be noticed the extraordinary devices for Frontispieces, with which even grave subjects have been illustrated, and the ornamental decorations affixed to books. In the library of the Royal College of Surgeons, there are many volumes, formerly the property of the celebrated Douglas, having his arms embellished with various kinds of surgical instruments, which was by no means an uncommon practice, as in the library of the College of Physicians, there are many examples of volumes, where the former possessor has not

only blazoned his own arms, but borrowed the arms of the College, and superadded supporters in the persons of certain medical deities, as Apollo, Mercury, Æsculapius, and his daughter Hygeia. Many other specimens might be enumerated from the stamp denoting royal property, to the “*Ejus Liber*” of the school-boy.

Guy Patin wrote in the front of his books—

“Guy Patini et Amicorum.”

Another Doctor, not so liberal, makes his say—

“Sum Martini.”

Doctor Gerhard, of Jena, not only informed the world to whom his books belonged, but gave some excellent advice—

“D. O. S.

Bibliothecæ Gerhardinæ

Pars Sum.

Cave

Ne Macules,

Ne Laceres,

Ultra mensem ne è dicta

Bibliotheca

Apud te retineas,

Furari noli.”

I belong to the Gerhardian Library; take care not to blot or tear me, and do not keep me out of the library above a month; above all, do not offer to steal me.

## MAHOGANY.

Dr. Gibbons, an eminent physician in the beginning of the last century, and alluded to by Garth, under the name of Mermillo, first introduced *Mahogany*. The Doctor's brother, a West Indian Captain brought over some of this wood as ballast, when the Doctor was building a house, thinking it might be of use; but the carpenters found it too hard for their tools. Soon after, Mrs. Gibbons wanting a candle-box, the Doctor called on his cabinet-maker, and ordered it to be made of the mahogany, for which strong tools were expressly made. The candle-box was finished and approved. A bureau was then made, of which the colour and polish were so pleasing, that he invited his friends to come and see it, among these was the Duchess of Buckingham, who ordered a similar piece of furniture; and the wood shortly after came into general use.

*Mahogany*, a word not known in any Dictionary at that time.



## MATHEMATICAL PRACTICE.

The application of mathematics and mechanics to the practice of medicine, has given rise to a variety of ridiculous fancies, and many singular calculations.

As might naturally be supposed, the practice founded on this system was of a very equivocal character, the learned being never agreed in their calculations: for instance, Borelli, the prince of the sect, reckons the heart to possess a power equal to 180,000  $\text{lbs}$ . weight, which Dr. Hales makes amount to no more than 51  $\text{lbs}$ ., and Keil reduces to only *a single pound*. Notwithstanding these differences, we find in the Philosophical Transactions a table, in which the several purgatives and emetics commonly in use, are enumerated and adjusted by mathematical rules, to all ages, sexes, and constitutions. The doses of the medicines are as the squares of the constitution. And in the Edinburgh medical essays, there is a formal attempt to correct the errors of this table.

## SPECIFICS.

The French government, as well as our own, has, in more than one instance, given large sums for the purchase of nostrums, with similar intentions and success.

In 1720, the French ministry purchased the “*Pulvis Carthusianum*,” or chermes mineral, originally invented by Glauber; and having been a great secret, it immediately became a great favourite with the public.

Previously to this, with the same laudable design, they purchased of Prieur de Cabrier, an arcanum, which, he boasted, would cure ruptures without bandage or operation. The recipe was then made public; when lo! the grand specific, which was to benefit all mankind, consisted of spirit of salt, with a certain quantity of red wine, *to be taken often* every day! about as great a discovery as John Wesley’s boiled egg shells for ruptured children.

In this country, in the reign of Charles II., Dr. Jonathan Goddard obtained £5,000. for disclosing his secret for making a medicine, called “*Guttæ Anglicanæ*.” And in 1739, the Parliament of England voted £5,000. to Mrs. Stevens for a solvent for stone; notwithstanding which, there have been

as many human calculi, since formed by his majesty's liege lithotomical subjects, as would macadamize one side of Lincoln's Inn Fields.

The celebrated David Hartley was very instrumental in procuring this grant to Joanna Stevens. He obtained also a private subscription to the amount of £1356., published one hundred and fifty-five *successful* cases, and, by way of climax to the whole, after eating *two hundred pounds weight* of soap! David himself died of the stone.

Mead's specific for hydrophobia, "*Pulvis Antylisus*," sanctioned by the authority of great names and great learning, shared a similar fate: though Mead, the learned and illustrious Mead, in his recommendation of it, declared, that, in the experience of thirty years, upon more than five hundred patients, he never knew it fail of success! In the Gentleman's Magazine, however, an unsuccessful case is related. "W. Jones, a farmer at Milton, (July 20, 1735) died of hydrophobia, after taking Mead's powder;" but, the failure is apologised for, from the circumstance of his being bit in the *nose*, "*which being so near the principal parts, might possibly, (nosological logic truly,) prevent his being cured by Dr. Mead's remedy, so successful in cases of this dreadful malady.*"

England has been called the "Paradise of Quacks." Our ancestors were a nostrum-loving



race from the king to the cottager, and the history of panaceas and specifics, in the form of elixirs, pills, powders, and waters, would form a large volume of humiliating memorials, of the credulity of the public who could swallow them, and the infatuation of the physician who could prescribe them. Who could believe that a philosopher would eat two hundred pounds of soap?—a bishop drink a butt of tar-water? or that in a course of chemical neutralization, Meyer, should swallow *twelve hundred* pounds weight of crab's-eyes!"

In the German *Ephemerides*, the case of a person is described, who had taken so much Elixir of Vitriol, that his keys were rusted in his pocket, by the transudation of the acid through his skin, and another patient is said to have taken Argentum Nitratum, in solution, till he became blue. But all these philosophers, doctors, and divines, sink into insignificance, before Samuel Jessop, who died at the age of 65, in 1817, whose inordinate craving for physic led him to take in 21 years, no less than 226,934 pills, besides 40,000 bottles of mixture; and in the year 1814, when his appetite increased, his consumption of pills was 51,590!!! Truly he must have thought with the prophet, "The Lord hath created medicines out of the earth, and he that is wise will not abhor them."—Eccles. xxxviii. 5, 6.

## INOCULATION.

The inoculation of the small-pox, was of Mahomedan origin, and was practised on a superstitious principle, long before it was introduced as a rational practice in this country. It has been supposed that the first adoption of it was by the Circassians; at least Voltaire, with very many pleasant remarks on the Circassian beauties, makes it out that the Turks had it from the Circassians, and Lady Wortley Montague from the Turks; certain however it is, that Lady Wortley had her own child inoculated at Constantinople, and on her return to England, persuaded the Princess of Wales to try the experiment in her own family, which was done with success, and subsequently adopted by all classes. Sir Hans Sloane was consulted on the subject by the Princess, and during an interview with her, gave his opinion with great caution. “He had read many essays on the subject; it seemed to him a very feasible method of securing people from the great danger attending that disease in the natural way; but that not being certain of the consequences, which might happen, he would not persuade, nor advise, the making trials upon patients of such importance to the public.” “Doctor,” said the Princess with dignity, “do you dissuade me from it?” *Sloane*.—“No.”—“Am I to understand you dissuade me from it?” repeated the Princess,

“No, I cannot dissuade your Royal Highness from what appears to be a matter of so much advantage.” —“Then it is my wish Sir, that it should be done ; but you must consult with the King.” Sir Hans waited on the King, (George I.) by his Majesty’s command. “Well Sir Hans,” said the King, “what is your opinion about this proposed experiment?” —“My opinion, Sire, can only be formed from what I have heard and read ; I cannot answer, but that raising such a commotion in the blood, may produce dangerous unforeseen accidents !” —“True, doctor, but such accidents may, and have happened from other causes—people have lost their lives by bleeding in a pleurisy, or taking physic, with the best skill and care.” —Sir Hans Sloane of course, complimented the monarch on his sagacity :—the experiment succeeded, and the result was, the universal adoption of inoculation.

Mead afterwards, in stating the success of the practice, says, that out of two hundred cases, he lost only one, and that was the son of the Duke of Bridgewater.

Inoculation now became a subject of great public interest, and the nation was divided into very zealous partizans for, and very active adversaries against it ; and religion was enlisted in the cause. It ought to be remarked, that the subject had been broached before, and in the *Philosophical Transactions*, 1716, an account is given of the operation as practised at



Constantinople, but no notice was taken of it till Lady Wortley's return.

What tended very much to favour the new operation was the ravages that the natural small pox had made with royal and noble persons. The King of Spain had died of it, and our own Queen and the Duchess of Bedford; and when the Hon. John Petre, brother of Lord Petre died, he was the eighteenth person in that family, who had died of the small-pox in twenty-seven years. These circumstances induced Lieutaud to recommend Louis XV. to be inoculated. Very courageous advice, considering the incredible fury with which it was then opposed.

At this period an Hospital for inoculation was suggested, and a small establishment was set on foot by Dr. Poole, a methodistical physician, which, from its being of the nature of a "Pest House," was shifted to different places, before it got a permanent establishment. At one time it was in Old Street Road, and the house is now standing with the original stone sign, (1668) of the Swan Tavern, in Stock's Market. Then it was at the back of Cavendish Square, where it gave so much alarm to the neighbourhood, that it was soon removed farther off; and Dr. Archer, who was forty-two years physician to it, found it in the fields at Islington, with twelve beds, three patients, and a large debt! As it increased in consequence, the matron had £7.

and the nurses £6. per annum; but it was fourteen years, before they were rich enough, to give their physician anything.

In process of time there sprung up a class of practitioners, who devoted themselves entirely to inoculation. Of these, the Suttons, and the Dimsdales, were the principal; and whole families took solemn leave of their friends, and left their homes, to undergo a discipline and training for inoculation under their hands. They treated their patients after the manner recommended by Mead and other learned physicians, and they were very successful. Of course the quacks took advantage of the times, and the Oxford Journal, Feb. 11, 1758, affords a good specimen of the popular notions on the subject.

“I, George Ridler, near Stroud, in the County of Gloster, Broadweaver, at the desire of the peepel hereabout, do give nautis, that I have *inokilated* these two seazons past, between 2 or 300 for the small-pox, and but two or three of them died; a mainy peepel be a feard of the thing, but exaith it is no more than srattin a bit of a haul in theier yarm, a pushin in a piece of skraped rag dipt in sum of the pocky matter of a child under the distemper—that every body in the nation may be served, I will God willin undertake to *inokillat* them with the pervizer they will take the purges before hand, and loose a little blud away, for *half a crown* a head; and I will be bould to say, noo body goes beyond me.

N. B. Poor volk at a shillin a head, but all must pay for the purgin."

In the British Museum there is a miscellaneous manuscript of the eighth or ninth century, partly Saxon, partly Latin, in which it is said that Saint Nicaise, Bishop of Rheims, A. D. 453, had been affected with a species of variola, and was at that time favoured with the privilege of emancipating his worshippers from the disease, by means of a talismanic inscription to be suspended about their persons. " Sanctus Nicasius habuit *minutam variolam*, et rogavit dominum, &c. &c."

The late Dr. Adams proposed to improve the process by inoculating from a pearl-like pustule; and Dr. Clifton discovered that pustules being of the nature of an abscess, it was right to open them, and having opened them, he proposed to cleanse them with warm water and honey of roses:—and then modestly observes, that " though he dare not presume to say that this method always succeeds, yet he ventures to affirm that it seldom fails." Vaccination settled all these speculations.



## PILLS.

The most successful of all pill proprietors, was Joshua Ward, known by the name of *Spot Ward*, from one side of his face being marked with claret. Pope has signalized him in two lines :—

Of late, without the least pretence to skill,  
*Ward's* grown a fam'd Physician by a pill.

General Churchill was the primary puffer of Ward's pill at Court; and Lord Chief Baron Reynolds soon after published "its miraculous effects on a maid servant," according to some doggrel verses of Sir William Browne, addressed to "*Dr. Ward, a Quack of merry memory*," under the title of "*The Pill Plot; or The Daily Courant's* miraculous Discovery, upon the ever memorable 28th day of November, 1734. For, from the Doctor himself being a Papist, and distributing his pills to the poor *gratis*, by the hands of the Lady Gage, also a Papist, the Pill must be, beyond all doubt, a deep-laid Plot to introduce Popery."

Next in fame, stands Tom Saffold of Quacking memory, who used to publish bills in verse. His were the *best* and *cheapest*.

"Tom Saffold's Pills, much better than the rest,  
Deservedly have gain'd the name of *best* ;

Each box has eighteen pills for eighteen-pence,  
Which is too cheap in any man's own sense."

This was underselling Dr. Case, who gave at the same period, "thirteen pills for eighteen-pence." How Lionel Lockyer sold his we are not told—but they must have been marvellously efficacious, as they cured all the world, and made him immortal, as may be learnt from his epitaph, which any incredulous person may read in St. Saviour's, Southwark, where on a fine monument it is recorded that:—

His Virtues and his Pills are so well known,  
That envy can't confine them under stone :  
But they'll survive his dust and not expire,  
Till all things else, at th' universal fire.  
This verse is lost ; his Pills embalm him safe  
To future times, without an Epitaph.

The astrological doctors, who ordained seasons for all things, recommended pills to be taken when the moon was in Pisces ; cold pills, for hot distempers ; and hot pills, for cold distempers. Pills made of the soot of the kitchen chimney, were among the warm doses, but the warmest of the warm, were George Jones's " Friendly Pills," of the true Tincture of the Sun—they made patients of all complexions laugh at the time of taking them, and cured all curable distempers.

The circumstance of medicines once so cele-

brated being now forgotten, has induced some to question their being entitled to the reputation attached to them. When we recollect, however, the bases of some of these preparations, and the wonder-working operations of chemistry upon them, it would be absurd to doubt their active powers; but there is a fashion in these matters, and they have been superseded by modern recipes, for that the trade thrives as much as ever, appears by a person being advertised for, whose sole occupation was to be “rolling of pills.”

This mode of administering a “multum in parvo” dose of medicine, is of great antiquity. Pliny tells us, “*Pharmaca illa in globulos conformata vulgo Pilulæ nominamus;*” and Shakspeare, complaining to his pharmaceutical son-in-law Hall, says “when I was sick, you gave me bitter pills;” from which we may conclude the Stratford apothecary did not gild his pills; perhaps it was not the fashion, but that the practice existed so early as 1680, we know from the “gilded pill” of Warwick Lane, immortalized by Garth, and from the laconic advice given to an apothecary of that period, who had an ugly daughter:—

As you, good Sir, with dext'rous skill,  
Roll up and *gild* the bitter pill,  
So give your daughter *gold* enough,  
Else she's a *drug* that wont go off.



There are, it seems, pills in the *moral* world, as well as the medical ; Moliere, no friend to the doctors, speaks of “ contempt ” as a bitter pill, that may be swallowed, though not without making wry faces. There are many moral bitter pills, equally disagreeable to take, but nevertheless proper to be taken. The Siamese, used to decide very important questions by emetic pills, those whose stomachs retained them the longest, gained the cause—a speedier mode than Chancery decisions. The celebrated Poggins tells us a story of a countryman who found a lost ass, by a mountebank’s pill, which though doubtless true, is not proper to be narrated here ; so that in all difficult cases of law, physic, or divinity, we may say with Moliere’s doctor :—

“ Prenez des Pilules—Prenez des Pilules.”

## DISCOVERIES.

In the year 1640, appeared in six quarto pages, a translation from the French, of a discussion held in one of the weekly conferences of Monsieur Renaudat's Bureau d'Addresses at Paris, on the Question, as they are pleased to translate it—

“ Whether there be Nothing new ? ”

Novelty being distinguished into *Natural*, *Moral*, and *Artificial*. The first of these is in *New Productions*, whether of substances or accidents, or of diseases unknown to the ancients. The *second* of new and *Unusual Actions*. The third of *Inventions*.

In tracing the history of our profession, if we look minutely into its progress, we cannot fail to be surprized at the many singular mistakes made by very ingenious and skilful persons, with respect to discoveries and inventions; and without entering into a very enlarged detail, or taking more than a cursory view of the works of ancient historians, poets, and ecclesiastical writers, a mass of probable evidence might be adduced to shew, that the small-pox, measles, scarlet-fever, and other diseases, have existed in almost every age of the world, of which history or tradition has furnished us with any

record ; and it might even be disputed whether the the cow-pox is not coeval with Adam.

That there is nothing new under the Sun, we learn from the wisest of mortals ; and the Sabine bard has told us of old, that—

“ Multa renascentur, quæ jam cecidere : cadentque  
Quæ nunc sunt in honore ; ”

and it was in the genuine spirit of heart-felt vexation, at finding many of his best observations forestalled, by earlier critical scholars, that the impetuous Scaliger, indignantly broke forth, in the memorable words, “ Pereant, qui ante nos nostra *dixere!* ” and with equal force, might some of our moderns exclaim, “ Pereant, qui ante nos nostra *fecêre!* ” So conscious was the late Dr. Monro of this objection, that he used to say no one ought to rest satisfied, with the assurance of the honour of having made a discovery, until he had satisfied himself that it was unnoticed by the ancients, particularly Galen, the extent and universality of whose knowledge he held in the highest estimation.

Nay, Freind in his History of Physic, tells us we are not to be satisfied even with Galen in matters of surgery, for that Ætius and Paulus, have forestalled him ; and Morand, a French surgeon of talent, when offering any novelty, would with singular modesty observe, “ Mais, il n'est pas



impossible qu' il ait été indiqué dans quelque ouvrages et qu'on l'ait négligé."

Perhaps no man was ever subject to greater disappointments on this score than John Hunter. From the nature of his labours, and his incessant occupation, it was natural that he should read less than most men, and it was no uncommon thing when he had by persevering application made a *discovery*, to have the mortification of being informed, that it had been discovered before, and *was in print*. The same has happened to other eminent anatomists, and an instance is recorded of the celebrated Lieutaud, who, like Hunter, contented himself with "turning over the great volume of nature." Mr. Senac, who frequently urged the necessity of uniting reading with observation, one day presented him with a singular proof of the justness of this remark, by giving him a latin description of the *Foramen ovale*. Lieutaud having read it, was struck with the minute correctness of it, and had the honesty to prefer this description to that which he had himself presented in a memoir, when he was surprised by learning that *this accurate description was written by Galen*.

The organ of hearing, in fishes, was considered a discovery of modern times; yet Julius Caserinus, in a work published Anno 1600, gave an accurate description of this organ, and represented it in en-

graved plates, and it has been supposed that the lacteals, were known to Herophilus.

In the middle of the eighteenth century, botanists thought they had made a new discovery, which they called by a very pretty metaphorical name, the *Sleep of Plants*. It was observed, however, as far back as the time of Chaucer, who, in his “*Legende of Good Women*,” has the following lines—

“There lovith no wight hartyer alyve,  
And when that it is evyn, I rynne belyve,  
As sone as the sonne ginneth to west,  
To see this floure, how it *will go to rest*,  
For fere of night, so hatith darkenes,  
Her chere is plainly spread in brightnesse  
Of the sonne, for then it will unclose.”

Ætius was acquainted with the external application of the magnet in diseases, so early as the year 500. In the thirteenth century our John of Gaddesden, in his *Rosa Anglica*, pointed out the way of rendering salt-water fresh, by distillation, a discovery supposed to be of modern date. Dioscorides knew that roots coloured bones. The *new* wonder-working Java pepper, then as now yclep’t “*Cubebs*,” was, Anno 1684, administered by the celebrated William Salmon; mustard-seed was prescribed for King William, and in the treatment of Sir John Chardin, who was cured of a fever by *repeated affusion of cold water*, by a physician at Gombron, above a century ago, we have a fact

that may have suggested a hint for modern practitioners, or we may go further back, and date it from the time of the Emperor Augustus, who under similar circumstances was ordered to bathe in cold water by Antonius Musa.

It was a generally received opinion, that till the time of Ambrose Pare, no other method had been practised to stop the hæmorrhage of arteries, except that of actual cautery; and that this great surgeon, struck with the cruelty as well as the precariousness of this method, invented the ligature. That he recommended it, and brought it into general use, is very probable, but we must deny him the honor of the invention, when we find so early a writer as Albucasis, stating four methods of doing it, one of which is ligature—"Ligetur Arteria cum filo ligatione forti," lib. i. cap. 57; and Vigo, who wrote in the early part of the sixteenth century, is most explicit in his description of it, "Modus autem ligationis. Eam aliqui efficiunt intromittendo acum sub vena desuper filum stringendo:" while in more modern times, (1755) we find the "*Fungus Chirurgorum*," proposed as a new application for stopping hæmorrhage, which under the name of *Lupi Crepitus*, was (1590) introduced by Felix Wurtz, a surgeon at Basil, "as a much safer application in blood-stanching than hot irons, corrosives, and the like," (*translated by Musor*, 1656.)



In medical works nothing sounds more grand than the mystery and importance of a *new method*; no bait is found so effectual as pretensions to a “*New Method.*” This creates productions that are dazzling, rather than solid, and leads authors to attempt what is uncommon, rather than what is useful and sound; and although it may seem the invidious purpose of laborious dulness, to seek out such coincidences, as tend to reduce genius of the higher order, to the usual standard of humanity, and thus bring an author nearer the level of his critic, yet a greater service cannot be rendered to society, than exploding the errors introduced by the admirers of novelty.

There are many curious circumstances connected with this subject, of a more recent date, but they must rest untouched, as they are too near home—too near neighbours, to be neighbourly.

## MRS. MAPP.

No part of surgery is supposed to be so easy to understand as *bone-setting* ; it is regarded by a considerable part of the people, as no matter of science, an affair on a level with farriery, as easily learnt, and like a heritage, to be transmitted from father to son ; in short, the pretensions of these people, are very like those of the man who set up as an oculist, *because* he had *lost an eye*, or the rupture doctor, who cured *bursten* children, *because* his grand-father and grand-mother were both *bursten*.

We are not without plenty of ignorant and impudent pretenders at the present day, but the celebrated Mrs. Mapp, the bone-setter of Epsom, surpasses them all. She was the daughter of a man named Wallis, a bone-setter at Hindon, in Wiltshire, and sister to the celebrated “ Polly Peachem,” who married the Duke of Bolton. Upon some *family quarrel*, Sally Wallis left her professional parent, and wandered up and down the country in a miserable manner, calling herself “ Crazy Sally,” and pursuing, in her perambulations, a course that fairly justified the title. Arriving at last at Epsom, she succeeded in humbugging the worthy bumkins of that place, so decidedly, that a subscription was set on foot to keep her among them ; but her fame

extending to the metropolis, the dupes of London, a numerous class then as well as now, thought it no trouble to go ten miles to see the conjuror, till at length, she was pleased to bless the afflicted of London with her presence, and once a week drove to the Grecian Coffee-house, in a coach and six with out-riders! and all the appearance of nobility. It was in one of these journeys, passing through Kent-street, in the Borough, that being taken for a certain woman of quality from the Electorate in Germany, a great mob followed, and bestowed on her many bitter reproaches, till Madame, perceiving some mistake, looked out of the window, and accosted them in this gentle manner, “D——n your bloods, do’nt you know me? I am Mrs. Mapp, the *bone-setter*!” upon which, they instantly changed their revillings into loud huzzas.

That she was likely enough to express herself in these terms, seems very natural from her origin and history, but that she should be on visiting terms with decent people, and keep quality company, is as unnatural. Mr. Pott, who wrote with the pen of a master, has noticed this in no very gracious terms,—“We all remember,” says he, “that even the absurdities and impracticability of her own promises and engagements, were by no means equal to the expectations and credulity of those who ran after her; that is, of all ranks and degrees of people, from the lowest labourer or mechanic, up to



those of the most exalted rank and station; several of whom not only did not hesitate to believe implicitly the most extravagant assertions of an ignorant, illiberal, drunken, female Savage, but even solicited her company; at least, seemed to enjoy her company."

She succeeded those grand quacks Taylor and Ward, as related by the Grub-street laureate of the day, who sings—

In physic as well as in fashion we find,  
The newest has always the run with mankind.  
Forgot is the bustle 'bout Taylor and Ward,  
Now Mapp's all the cry, and her fame's on record.  
So what signifies learning or going to school,  
When a woman can do without Reason or Rule.

## MADDER.

Till the year 1736, this plant was little regarded, except among dyers, farmers, and merchants, who purchased it from the farmers in order to sell it to the dyers with profit; and among a few herb-dealers and physicians, who, on the authority of the ancients, ascribed to it eminent virtues, which others doubted, or altogether denied. In the above year, however, a property of it was discovered by accident, which rendered it an object of more attention. John Belchier, the distinguished surgeon, having dined with a cotton-printer, observed that the bones of the pork, which was brought to table, were red. As he seemed surprised at this circumstance, his host assured him that the redness was occasioned by the swine feeding on the water mixed with bran, in which the cotton cloth was boiled, and which was colored by the madder used in printing it. Belchier, to whom this effect was new, convinced himself by experiments, that the colour of the bones had arisen from the madder employed in printing the cotton, and from no other cause; and he communicated his discovery to the Royal Society, in a paper which was printed in their transactions.

## TAR WATER.

Bishop Berkeley who brought this remedy into fashion, was greatly aided by the faith of the clergy, who preached it up in all quarters. Among these, none was more strenuous than Dr. Young, the author of the "Night Thoughts." "They who have experienced the wonderful effects of tar water," says he, "reveal its excellencies to others. I say reveal, because they are beyond what any can conceive by reason, or natural light. But others disbelieve them, tho' the revelation is attested past all scruple, because to them such strange excellencies are incomprehensible. Now give me leave to say, that this infidelity may possibly be as fatal to morbid bodies, as other infidelity to morbid souls. I say this in honest zeal for your welfare. I am confident, if you persist you'll be greatly benefited by it. In old obstinate chronical complaints, it probably will not show its virtue under three months; tho' secretly, it is doing good all the time."

Such was the universality of its power, that it was good for man and beast, *and a sure remedy for the plague!*



## CORPORATION OF SURGEONS.

Be it remembered that on the 24th day of June, 1745, and in the 18th year of the reign of King George the Second, the Surgeons were separated from the Barbers by an Act passed in the last Session of Parliament, entitled “ An Act for making the Surgeons and Barbers of London, two separate and distinct Corporations.”

*Minutes of the United Company of Barber-Surgeons of London.*

At this time, John Medley was master, and Joseph Sandford, Humphry Negus, and the celebrated Cheselden, were the wardens, to whom Bonnel Thornton suggested “ *Tollite Barberum*” as the motto for the new company.

On the separation, the Barbers retained the old hall, books, paintings, and records, and every thing, except the small annuity left by Arris and Gale, for six surgical lectures. Under these circumstances, the Surgeons found themselves with a public duty to discharge, but without a house, or property to purchase one; they were therefore obliged to borrow, and by a sort of second-sight, they built their Hall, in the vicinity of what subsequently became the place of execution.

Previously to the separation the members of the company had voted as liverymen of London; upon a city election some time after, Mr. Pott being desirous of exercising his franchise, presented himself as a Barber-Surgeon-Liveryman. “No, no,” said the scrutineer, “you may still be a *Shaver*, Mr. Pott, but you have not been a *Barber* these five years.”

## RADCLIFFE LIBRARY.

This splendid monument of Radcliffe's liberality, was opened with great ceremony April 13, 1749—when the University conferred the degree of Doctor of Medicine, by Diploma, on three physicians, Dr. Pitcairn, Dr. Conyers, and Dr. Kennedy.

For a considerable length of time after the opening of this literary depot, as if to verify the joke of Radcliffe's private library being in his window-seat, it was literally without books, and was known by the title of "Medical Library," and many collections of books were given to it under that denomination.

Dr. Frewin, long a celebrated physician at Oxford, gave his medical library of above 3000 volumes. Gibbs, the Architect who built it, gave a valuable collection; and Dr. Kennicot, the Hebrew Professor, also gave his collection, connected with the publication of his Bible. It was only after these liberal donations, that it assumed the appearance and took its proper title of Radcliffe Library.

In the gallery, over the door, is a bust of an *unknown doctor*; but in fact it is, Wm. Laud, Archbishop of Canterbury, and President of St. John's.



## ACTIONS AT LAW.

1733. A cause was tried at the Marshalsea Court, Southwark, wherein a quaker was plaintiff, and a child of four years old, and her guardians, defendants.

The child had a sore finger, which the plaintiff pretending to cure, it turned to a mortification, and he cut it off; brought in a bill of £15.; arrested the child, and confined her several weeks in the Marshalsea Prison: but the plaintiff not being bred a regular surgeon, he was nonsuited; and the Court ordered the bayliff into custody.

1754. £1000. damages were given against a man-midwife for refusing to attend Mrs. Maddox, and in another cause, £250. damages for *rebreaking* a leg.

An action was lately brought against the Parish Officers of a country town, to recover eleven guineas—the doctor's bill being “to attending John Thomson three journeys *on a broken leg*—eleven guineas.”

## PLUNKET'S CAUSTIC.

The late Sir Charles Blicke, with whom Mr. Abernethy served his apprenticeship, used to pride himself very much on curing cancerous sores, which he accomplished by the use of Plunket's caustic, a quack preparation, containing the white oxyde of arsenic, flour of sulphur, with a handful of ranunculus, and dog-fennel; and his pupils were occasionally employed in gathering these herbs, powdering them, and making them into a paste fit for application. Sir Charles, who was as good a practical surgeon as most of his contemporaries, had a little taint of the credulity of the olden-time, with respect to topical applications, and had a "honey cerate" of his own, which for nearly half a century, was the common dressing of his hospital patients.

The introduction of this caustic into surgical practice, was about 1754, by Richard Guy, who purchased the receipt and kept it a secret. It led to a controversy, in which Gataker, one of the surgeons to the King, took an active part; but in Lloyd's Evening Post, March, 5, 1760, the secret popp'd out, and Old Plunket's receipt is thus recorded in the words of the quack himself:—

R Crowsfoot, which grows in low  
ground, one handful ;  
Dog Fennel, three sprigs,  
Crude Brimstone, three middling thimbles-full,  
White Arsenic, the same quantity.—

} well pounded.

All incorporated well in a mortar, then made into small balls, the size of nutmegs, and dried in the sun.

The first public notice of this remedy was in these terms in the St. James's Evening Post, Aug. 28, 1744.

“ The following remarkable case being well attested, we make public for the benefit of the afflicted. Mr. Scot, an eminent Wine Merchant of this City, (London) having been for some years afflicted with a cancer, and having applied to many eminent surgeons without any hope of a cure, was at length informed, that a poor man in the County of Wicklow, in Ireland, had cured some persons in very extraordinary cases ; and being resolved to try every thing rather than continue in pain, he went from London about eight weeks ago, to the village where this poor fellow dwells, and is now returned perfectly cured, for which he very generously rewarded him.”

In a manuscript note, written by Dr. Luke Wayman, then practising as an apothecary at Royston, I find the following observations :—“ In Sep. 1744,



a gentleman told me in my shop, that he knew the above relation to be true. Mr. Scot's cancer, he said, was in his lip; a surgeon cut out the tumour, then the poor man, whose name is *Plunket*, put on a plaister, which was kept on full three weeks, all which time Mr. Scot was in intolerable pain, then another plaister was laid on to heal it. The man undertakes no cancers but what can be cut out. This prescription of the plaister, I think, he says he had from his grandfather, who had it from a Jesuit abroad; Mr. Sedgwick, a surgeon in London, pretends to know what the plaisters are, by seeing their application."

Although this application is not much in present use, it is nevertheless, a most effectual remedy in "*Noli me-tangere*," and certain cancerous ulcerations of the skin, which baffle ordinary means. In this description of case, it may be applied with great advantage:—but true carcinoma still remains the "*opprobrium chirurgorum*."

## REPORT OF THE PLAGUE.

The following advertisement appeared in the London Gazette, and other papers :—

“ St. Thomas’s Hospital, July 30, 1760.—Whereas the town has been alarmed by a false and wicked report, that the plague is broke out in St. Thomas’s Hospital; we the underwritten, (in pursuance of an order of the grand committee of governors held this day), do hereby certify, that the said report is absolutely without foundation; and that there are no other diseases amongst the patients, than what are usual in this and all other hospitals.”

Thomas Milner, M. Akenside, Alexander Russell, John Hadley, Physicians to St. Thomas’s Hospital.

T. Baker, Benjamin Cowell, Thomas Smith, Surgeons to St. Thomas’s Hospital.

George Whitfield, Apothecary to the said Hospital.

The wicked report mentioned above, spread a general consternation; and the demand for rue and wormwood in Covent Garden Market, advanced the price of those articles almost forty per cent.

the gardeners servants being employed night and day in taking those commodities to market.

About this time, Messrs. Chandler and Smith, Apothecaries in Cheapside, had taken in a *third* partner, (Mr. Newsom), and while the report prevailed, these gentlemen availed themselves of the popular opinion, and put a written notice in their windows, of “*Four Thieves* vinegar sold here.”—Mr. Ball, an old Apothecary, passing by, and observing this, went into the shop, “What,” said he, “have you taken in another partner?”—“No.”—“Oh! I beg your pardon, replied Ball, I thought you had, *by the ticket* in your window.”

It is only in modern times that remedies for the plague have been sought. The early Christians considered it as a divine punishment, and gave themselves up, as the Turks do now, hoping by fasting and prayer alone, to shorten the duration of their calamities.



## SOCIETY OF NAVY SURGEONS.

This society deserves to be noticed as being the first association of professional men, for the purpose of medical discussions and inquiries, and more so, as it was, to this society, before it was regularly organized, that Dr. Wm. Hunter, made his first essay at lecturing, in London, as successor to the celebrated Samuel Sharp.

The society does not appear to have been a very lively one, for after having given an account of an “entire and imputrid body, after eighty years interment, at Staverton, in Devonshire,” and of three other bodies, under similar circumstances, at St. Martin’s, Westminster, it became defunct itself.

The London Medical Society, founded in 1773, which by the liberality of its founder, Dr. Lettsom, still has

“a local dwelling and a name,”

seems to have borrowed some of its notions from this society, whose intentions and plans will be best understood by the following resolutions passed at their first meeting:—

“IT IS AGREED,

“I. That a committee of twenty-five members, and honorary members, do collect and revise all

such essays, observations and cases in physic, surgery, anatomy, the animal œconomy, pharmacy, chemistry, botany, and natural history, as may be transmitted to them by the members of the Society, or by any ingenious and obliging correspondents: that the physician of *Greenwich* Hospital, and the demonstrator of anatomy be, *ex-officio*, of the committee: that the meetings be held at the Society's apartments; the first to be on *Monday, May 7th, 1750*, and all subsequent ones at such times as the committee shall appoint.

“ II. That as one considerable purpose of this undertaking is to pursue, particularly, such branches of medical knowledge, as fall more immediately under the observation of the Navy Surgeons, who may be reasonably presumed to have advantages, for some particular disquisitions, peculiar to their situation; such as——an opportunity of enquiring into the nature of sea diseases, and any specific or material difference between them and those at land;——of observing any particular effects of medicines at sea;——the common effects of the principal operations of surgery on that element; especially where any remarkable diversity occurs from their general events on shore; and any different success of the same operations in different climates, at sea and land;——the effects of sea air and diet in general, in various diseases, and the particular changes of the constitution produced by them, under the co-operation of different

seasons and climates ;——the various distempers endemic on their different stations ; and any remarkable diversity in the symptoms, and the general event of the disease, between natives and strangers ; with the usual method of treating such disease, or its ordinary supervening symptoms, by practitioners of the best note and greatest experience, in those countries, and the most frequent consequence of it.——It is therefore strongly recommended to them to be carefully attentive to those very material articles : and further to improve every opportunity of informing themselves, of the popular methods of treating different distempers in those places, where physic is little cultivated ;——of attaining the natural history of the country ;——the weather ;——the animals ;——plants (especially all indigenous physical ones) and fossils ;——to endeavour to discover the process and manufacture of any drugs in it ;——and to furnish themselves with the best collection of such productions as they can conveniently procure. But to prevent the multiplicity of volumes, without adding to the stock of useful knowledge, It is agreed, that no other cases or observations in physic or surgery shall be published, but such as may be instructive in their own nature, or rendered so, by judicious and extensive reflections deduced from them, in order to the establishment or confirmation of general axioms.

“ III. That every member employed on board



any of his majesty's ships, appointed to the Baltic, Mediterranean, East Indies, or America, shall favour the committee with a seasonable notice of his voyage, that they may have time to prepare, and recommend to him, such memorandums and instructions, as they may judge necessary for the service of the Society, and conducive to the laudable intention of this plan.

“ IV. That all papers, intended for the promotion of this design, be directed for the committee, under cover, to Mr. Millar, Bookseller, in the Strand, with a direction where to address the author or correspondent, if a more particular attestation of the facts, or an elucidation of any circumstance of the case, may be judged requisite. That the name of each author or correspondent shall be faithfully concealed, if required: but all anonymous papers, where any stress is laid on facts, must be necessarily disregarded on this plan, without a satisfactory attestation of their reality.

“ V. That if the publication of any thing, communicated to the committee, shall be deemed inconsistent with their plan, in consequence of which the author shall think himself neglected, or disingenuously dealt with, he may apply to them at pleasure, to be informed of their motives for not publishing it, and may depend on receiving all reasonable satisfaction on their part. And that as soon as proper and sufficient matter is collected for

one volume in octavo, it shall be digested for the press, and published.

“ VI. That each of the members, who transact the business of the committee, shall have a copy on large paper of whatever shall be printed ; that six copies on the same paper, shall be deposited with the society, for their use, and at their disposal ; and that a golden medal be given annually, as a prize to the author of the most useful paper, communicated to the committee, within the purpose of this plan.

“ VII. That all expences, which the committee shall find necessary to the effectual conduct and accomplishment of this undertaking, shall be allowed out of the Society’s stock.”

These regulations are taken from a very rare Tract. They were drawn up by some distinguished men, and may be considered as the foundation of rules which modern public institutions have applied to the practical purposes of Science.

## VACCINATION.

Sir Richard Blackmore, and Mr. Tanner, Surgeon to St. Thomas's Hospital, opposed *Inoculation*, as Moseley and Birch did *Vaccination*. They asserted that the preventative power of inoculation, was contrary both to reason and experience, and that more deaths occurred after the operation, than from disease in its natural form; and they, like the moderns, accused those of falsehood, who maintained the contrary opinion.

The clergy also in both cases, entered into the dispute, but with this difference, that they were advocates *for* one, and opponents *against* the other. In truth, they considered inoculation as a *crime*, and even asserted that the small-pox was the disease with which Job was afflicted, and that the devil was the inoculator, and it was inferred from thence, that it was impious to alleviate, or remove, any of the disorders which are sent from God to afflict mankind.

So that the friends of Vaccination, have had the consolation of knowing, that their predecessors had to encounter, at least, an equal share of prejudice and illiberality, and that the Moseley and Rowley oppositions, were paralleled by the conduct of two eminent practitioners, who, long after inoculation



was established, raised a cry against it, and adduced instances of failure, and of the imaginary evils which ensued from it.

The advantages of inoculation were calculated thus:—if one in seven die of the small-pox in the natural way, and one in three hundred and twelve by inoculation, then as one million divided by

7 gives .....142,857  $\frac{1}{7}$

One million divided by

312 gives.....3,205  $\frac{40}{312}$

The lives saved by inoculation upon one million must be .....139,652  $\frac{32}{2184}$

A most surprising difference! but what would these calculators have said to any one who should have suggested that the period would arrive, when the chance of *having the small-pox*, should be only equal to the chance of *dying* under the improvement of inoculation. Five hundred and three deaths from small-pox being the total within the Bills of Mortality for the year 1826, which on the average was formerly never less than four thousand.

## ANATOMICAL LECTURES.

When Dr. Hunter began his anatomical lectures, they were given in the evening—but as he lived at the period when Garrick was in his zenith, he soon discovered that he stood no chance with the actor, for whenever Garrick *lectured*, the *anatomical lectures* were neglected. In vain did the Doctor preach to the pupils on the immorality of attending theatres, and the impropriety of neglecting him, it was of no avail; Romeo's Apothecary, and Dr. Last, were the only medical characters to spend the evening with, and for the rest, they thought Macbeth sufficient authority, to “throw physic to the dogs.”

For this reason, and for this reason alone, the anatomical lectures were afterwards given in the middle of the day.

Dr. Hunter may be considered as the father of the anatomical schools of London, and he bequeathed a fame and character to his class, which has been supported with undiminished lustre to the present day. Previously to his time, very little had been done; Cheselden had given a few lectures—so had André, and Nourse; and Dr. Frank Nicholls gave what he considered a systematic course, and published a Syllabus of thirty-nine lectures. Dr. Maclauren and Dr. Marshall were also,

anatomical teachers. To the late Mr. Cline, however, and to Mr. Abernethy, we are indebted for the anatomical schools at two of our largest hospitals.

Mr. Cline, it is true, found a place to lecture in, but it was his great talents and his high character, that brought it into notice, and subsequently, with Sir Astley Cooper, made it one of the first schools in Europe.

To Abernethy, is due the sole honour of establishing the Anatomical School at St. Bartholomew's, now second to none; and it is to the advantages arising from the hospital education of the metropolis, that London has become, within the last half century, the most distinguished seat of medical tuition in the world. Long may it flourish!

“*Quicquid est laudabile, idem est beatum et florens.*”

*Cicero.*



# MEMOIRS.



# MEMOIRS.

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SIR THEODORE MAYERNE,

THE DOCTOR CAIUS OF SHAKSPEARE.

THE reign of James I. was conspicuous for all sorts of quackery, particularly chemical quackery. Sir Theodore Mayerne, who was driven from Paris, by the predominant party of the Galenists, found wealth and patronage in the Court of England, and academical honours at the University of Oxford, where he was incorporated, with more than ordinary solemnity, Doctor of Medicine, April 8, 1606. He was made chief physician to the King, as appears by the following documents :—

“ Die solis 9 Junii stilo veteri 1611, psitum a me juramentum regi Magnæ Brittanniæ Jacobo I. Greenwichi.” “ Th: Mayerne.”



Such was his influence with the king, that he was sent by him, 1618, into France, about matters of great concern, but being suspected to come there purposely to disturb affairs, he was commanded to depart that kingdom forthwith.

He seems to have been a very general practitioner, and to have dabbled a little in Midwifery and Cookery. From his notes, and from those of Dr. Chamberlain, a book was compiled, called “The Compleat Midwife.” He wrote “Excellent and well approved Receipts and Experiments in Cookery, with the best way of Preserving.”

There are two circumstances in Sir Theodore’s history worthy of note :—his attendance on Prince Henry, “the people’s darling, and the delight of mankind,” and his attendance on the King, of which he left an ample account.

A very curious instance of the officious interference of friends in medical affairs, is to be found in the case of the King. “The Duchess of Buckingham, the Tuesday before he died, would needs make use of a receipt she had approved, but, being without the privity of the physicians, occasioned so much discontent in Dr. Craig, that he uttered some plain speeches, for which he was commanded out of the court; the Duke himself, as some say, complaining to the sick King of the words he spoke.”

This affair gave rise to a notion that the King had been poisoned, and Mr. Mead, in a letter to Sir M. Stuteville, (1625) says, “ I am told for certain, that Friday at night ’till the hour of his death, his tongue was swoln so big in his mouth, that either he could not speak at all, or not to be understood.” Certain it is, that this plaister gave great offence to the king’s physicians, and gave rise to a variety of reports. From the account given of it, in the *Aulicus Coquinariæ*, it was obtained from a country doctor, who was not aware that it was intended for the king. The dissection of the king’s body, presented some curious appearances and remarks. Upon opening the head it was found so very full of brains, that they could not keep them from spilling, “ a great mark of his infinite judgment;” but his blood was wonderfully tainted with melancholy, and the corruption thereof the supposed cause of his death.”

Exclusive of a volume relating to King James’s health and personal habits, there are no less than nineteen others in the Sloane Collection of Manuscripts, folio and quarto, in the hand-writing of Sir Theodore Mayerne, filled with what he stiles his “ *Ephemerides*,” a journal of the cases which he attended from 1603 to 1649. The earlier volumes, previous to 1611, relate to his French patients; the rest are his “ *Ephemerides Anglicæ*,” and record the disorders, prescriptions for, and cures of persons of both sexes of so great consequence, that

they may be stiled, for the period they embrace,  
“The Medical Annals of the Court of England.”

The ceremoniousness with which Sir Theodore prefaces the patient's case in many instances, is entertaining. The day and hour of his birth, his personal formation, the state of the different organs of his frame, the peculiarities of his diet, his likes and dislikes, the diseases to which his parents were liable, and the casualties he had himself undergone in the course of life, are all exactly registered, with such remarks super-added as might tend to aid Sir Theodore's skill when again called in at any subsequent time. The whole written in latin. Among the most particular of all perhaps is the Account of Robert Earl of Salisbury. *Sloane MS. 2058.*

On the 29th of July, 1617, he attended my Lord of Buckingham for a humour in his right ear, caused by riding bare-headed two years before, in the winter, hunting with the King.

From many of the entries the Duke of Buckingham appears to have been a man of gaiety. He is frequently disguised in these volumes under the name of “Palamedes.”

The following is Sir Theodore Mayerne's description of the Duchess, then Marchioness of Buckingham.



“Januarii, 24, 1622. Madame la Marquise de Buckingham. Annum ætatis agit xix. Habitus gracilis, corpus μονογραμμον. Temperamentum ex sanguineo biliosum. Faciei color floridus. Mores compositi. Summa cum gravitate modestia. Vitium conformationis in spina dorsi. Gravida est, et credit longissimum partus terminum fore diem Annunciationis B. V. M. 25 Martii.”

In one instance we have “Præparationes missæ ad Ser Watter Raleigh; parandæ pro Ser Roger Aston.” “My Lord Duc de Lenox, Diarrhea a liberiori victu.” “Mylade Walsingham, Chephalæa ingens.” “Madame de Hadingthon, Affectus hystericus et melancholicus.” “Madame la Contesse de Carse, Debiles oculi.” “Mylade Bedford, *Podagra*.”

It is remarkable that the leaves in these volumes, containing the account of Prince Henry's last illness in 1612, have been cut out, probably by Sir Theodore himself, who endured great obloquy upon his death.

We have given, p. 95, a specimen of his chemical talents in the formation of the Pharmacopœia—here we find him condescending to employ them in minor affairs.

There is a recipe for scents and emollients made in 1611 for my Lord Hay, entitled “Odoramenta

et quæ ad ornatum." These were "*Pulvis ad Cuput. Pastilli ad suffitum Cubiculi. Aviculæ Cypriæ ad suffitum. Pasta ad manus, dealbandas et emolliendas. Opiata ad dentes mundandos et confirmandos. Aqua ad colluendos dentes post usum Opiatæ. Radices ad dentes expoliendos.*"

In 1617 we have a prescription for the Queen's black horse, which had been seized with epilepsy, "pro Equo nigro Reginæ epileptico;" it begins "Equus est novem annorum;" in the margin is added, "Curatus fuit." And in 1636, another prescription for the King's dogs, "pro canibus Regiis rabidis."

In 1628, we have the copy of a letter which Sir Theodore wrote to King Charles the First, upon his quitting the use of the Wellingborough waters in Northamptonshire; and in the same year he prescribed for "Mons. Cromwell, *valde melancholicus.*" In 1643, we have his "Advis pour Monseigneur le Conte de Northumberland sur l'Usage des Eaux de Townbridge."

Whoever is desirous to know the state of the Physician's science, in the reigns of James and Charles the First, must consult the volumes here described. Sir Theodore Mayerne was among the first who introduced the chemical practice, which time and experience have now fully established.

The plan he took, with respect to fees, seems to have succeeded, (vide page 44) for he died rich; and his daughter, who was to have married Henry Lord Hastings, who died only the day before their nuptials, was afterwards married to a French Marquess of distinction.

A very flaming funeral sermon was preached by Thomas Hodges, a presbyterian divine; and a monument was raised to him in St. Martin's Church, in which all the virtues that ever were combined in one person are recorded of him, as—

Nuper fuit ille ingens  
THEODORUS MAYERNE  
Magnum Nomen!  
Alter Hippocrates!

and after a long list of good qualities, the whole is summed up, with—

Quid de Mayernis plura?  
MAYERNIUM dixeris, Omnia dixeris.



## SIR WILLIAM PADDYE.

In the library of St. John's College, Oxford, there is a full length portrait of this learned physician, in the full dress medical costume of the day. He was a very distinguished member of that College, and had sufficient interest with Laud, the President, to obtain "the lending of an ancient volume of Bede," to Sir Robert Cotton, contrary to the statutes, but "that it was thought at that tyme unfitt to distast a man that had done soe much good for the Colledge, and intended much more :"—and a very interesting letter on this subject was written by Laud to Sir Robert, complaining that they were "over-bould with his reputation, and charged all the gylt of the accion upon him."

In the Reign of King James, the College of Physicians, being charged with arms, Sir Wm. Paddye pleaded the privilege of the College before Sir Thomas Middleton, Lord Mayor, a full court of Aldermen, Sir Henry Montague, Recorder; and with such success, that a dispensation was ordered for all members of the college, and a precept awarded to commit all doctors, not lincened members of the college.

Sir William attended, and was present at the death of his “Soveraigne Lord and Master,” at the Palace of Tibaldis, near Enfield; and of which the following curious account is given at the end of a common prayer book in the library of St. John’s College :—

“Being sent for to Thibaulde butt two daies before the death of my Soveraigne Lord and Master King James, I held it my christian dutie to prepare hym, telling hym, that there was nothing left for me to doe, (in ye afternoone before his death ye next daie at noone) but to pray for his soule. Whereupon ye Archbishop and ye Lord-keeper Byshop of Lincolne, demanded if his Majestie wold be pleased that they shold praye with hym, whereunto he cheerfullie accorded. And after short praier these sentences were by ye Byshop of Lincolne distinctly read unto hym, who wih eies (the messengers of his hert) lifted up unto Heaven, att the end of every sentence, gave to us all thereby, a goodlie assurance of those graces and civilie faith, wherewith he apprehended the mercy of our Lord and onelie Saviour Christ Jesus, acchrdinglie as in his goodlie life he had publiquellie professed.”

## BALWYN HAMEY.

A consummate scholar, a complete philosopher, and a good physician. He was a great benefactor to the College of Physicians during his life, and at his death, bequeathed them the estate of Ashlins, in Essex, besides money and books.

There is a manuscript life of this amiable and interesting person, written about a century ago, by his relation, Mr. Palmer;—and from this MS. the greater part of the following memoir is extracted.

Page 6 of *the manuscript*. “ His mother, a lady of most excellent talents, Mrs. Sarah Oeils, was an eminent merchant’s daughter of Antwerp, and of a good family, wonderfully preserved in her tender infancy by an especial providence in the general desolation and depopulation committed in the Spanish Netherlands, under the vile administration of the Duke of Alva, when men, women, and children were massacred, ravished, or plundered, and *SHE*, torn from her mother’s breast, yet smiling in the assassin’s face (an officer of distinction) so moved him to compassion, that he saved the lovely babe, and the whole family for its sake; so eloquent is beauty, even in its earliest miniature, under the graces and charms of unblemished innocence.”



Page 54. “Chemistry too” says the biographer “now began to come in vogue, which Dr. Hamey could not well be reconciled to, from his Galenical principles, and at his age: and however it may have since proved in the *Materia Medica* of use, it seemed to him as a stroke of quackery, and perhaps was first used in that way; encouraged by the vanities of Paracelsus, and the hopes of the grand elixir, of whom many start up among us even to this day, but like mushrooms soon vanish away. These he called ‘*Blandimenta Juvenum, et Sanum tacita repudia.*’ So fast a friend was he to his Hippocrates, whose method has been revindicated by others within a few years past.”

Page 76. “And now” says the writer, “I must take notice of that violent concussion in politicks which befel these realms, by which the Halcyon days of the Muses were much interrupted on the banks of Thamesis, as well her sister rivers Isis and Cam too. During which commotions this great man, who was too good and too wise not to be a melancholy looker on, sometimes discouraged from prosecuting his employment, under the aspect of such malignant stars, yet, at others suspending his resolution of leaving the city of London, till an accident happened by which alone, Dr. Hamey judged better of it, that determined him to persist in a London practice, and something very remarkable indeed it was.”

“ It had pleased God to visit him personally, at this unhappy juncture too, with a severe fit of sickness, a peripneumonia, which confined him a great while in his chamber, and to the more than ordinary care of his tender spouse. During this affliction he was disabled from practice; but the very first time he dined in his parlour afterwards, a certain very great man, in high station, came to consult him on an amorous case, (*ratione vagi sui amoris*, says Dr. Hamey) and he was one of the godly ones too of those times. After the Doctor had received him in study, and modestly attended to his long religious preface, with which he introduced his ignominious circumstances, and Dr. Hamey had assured him of his fidelity, and given him hopes of success in his affair, the generous soldier (for such he was) drew out of his pocket a bag of gold, and offered it all at a lump to his physician; Dr. Hamey, surprised at so extraordinary a fee, modestly declined the acceptance of it, upon which the great man, dipping his hand into the bag himself, grasped up as much of his coin as his fist could hold, and generously put it into the Doctor’s coat pocket, and so took his leave.”

“ Dr. Hamey returned into his parlour to dinner, which had waited for him all that time, and smiling whilst his lady was discomposed at his absenting so long, emptied his pocket into her lap; this soon altered the features of her countenance, who telling the money over, found it to be thirty-six broad

pieces of gold ; at which she being greatly surprized, confessed to the Doctor, that this was surely the most providential fee he evèr received, and declared to him, that she, during the heighth of his severe illness, had paid away (unknown to him) on a state levy towards a public supply, the like sum in number and value of pieces of gold, least under the lowness of his spirits it should have proved a matter of vexation, unequal to his strength at that time to bear, which being thus so remarkably reimbursed to him by providence, it was the properest juncture she could lay hold on to let him into the truth of it." In consequence the Doctor remained in London, and stood the hazard of the times.

Page 84. The Doctor is represented to have "thought it sometimes necessary to move with the stream, and went to hear (what he hated) a barber perhaps, or cobbler hold forth ; but always took care his servant should carry for him an Aldus edition of Virgil, upon vellum, in binding and bulk resembling an octavo Bible, to entertain himself with ; or a duodecimo edition of Aristophanes, canonically bound too, in red Turkey leather, with clasps, resembling a Greek Testament."

Pages 88, 89. " Dr. Hamey declined a knighthood, and the offer of being first physician to King Charles the Second, after his restoration. The same modesty made him waive the Presidentship of his beloved College" of Physicians, " though he had held all other offices in it subordinate."



Page 105. “ Nor must I omit a donation of Dr. Hamey’s too to this College, of a rarity not then inconsiderable in its price.\* I mean an unicorn’s horn, set in gold, which the College, as he designed it, presented to King Charles the Second at his restoration; to whom he had remitted several sums of money during the hardships of his exile.”

Dr. Hamey was born April 24, 1600. He retired to Little Chelsea from the hurry of his profession but the year before the Fire of London, saving thereby his library. He weathered out the plague in London. At Chelsea he contributed a subscription of more than any other single individual toward the erection of the steeple; and gave the great bell which bore his name upon it. In gratitude for these benefactions, Dr. Adam Littleton, at that time Rector, printed and published, at the end of the first edition of his Latin Dictionary, a copy of latin verses, dedicated, on that occasion, to this good man. He died 14th of May, 1676, and was buried at Chelsea, with a latin inscription. (Vide Stow’s Survey, vol. 2, Append. 72.) He was succeeded as an elect of the college by Dr. Whistler, who was afterwards President.

There is a manuscript of Dr. Hamey’s, in latin, in the British Museum; a short collection of biographi-

\* Unicorns’ horn was at one time sold at £24. per ounce, as an Antidote to Poison.

cal anecdotes of some of his contemporaries, but of no very extensive interest. It appears that among the most learned of his friends was “ Dr. Simeon Fox, a younger son of the Martyrologist, who had been employed in arms under the Earl of Southampton and Sir John Norris. He was educated at Eton, and at Cambridge, where he became M. A. and then took his doctor’s degree at Padua in Physic. And having served in a military way in Holland and Ireland, he settled as a physician in London, where he died in 1642. Upon his death-bed he thus addressed his friend Dr. Hamey, ‘ *Mi amice, vale, crastinus dies liberabit tuum ab his angustiis.*’ A bust of him, at the College of Physicians, perished, with another of Dr. Harvey, in the fire of 1666. He left a work behind him in manuscript, ‘ *Universa Medicina.*’ He left also a journal of his Travels, and a quarto volume of characters of his contemporaries, physicians, statesmen, &c., written in the most elegant latin.

## SIR CHARLES SCARBOROUGH.

Distinguished for his loyalty and learning; he was ejected from Caius College, Cambridge, for his adherence to the royal cause, and withdrew to Oxford, where he became a member of Merton College, at the time when the celebrated Harvey was the Warden. His accidental residence with this illustrious man, gave him a taste for anatomy, and for seventeen years, he gave the anatomical lectures at Surgeon's-hall; and there is now a portrait of him in the court room at Barbers'-hall, where he is represented lecturing, and *Alderman Surgeon Arris*, with a stick in his hand as demonstrator. He was appointed to introduce the Marquis of Dorchester, on his being admitted a fellow of the college, which he did in an elegant latin speech.

In *Nugæ Chirurgicæ*, p. 257, an anecdote is related of Evelyn refusing to let Sir Charles have his anatomical preparations, which had just arrived from Padua, and were admired by Molins, the Surgeon, and others, being the first of the kind ever seen in England. These preparations or tables of veins and arteries, which Evelyn refused to the College of Physicians, are at this time in the Museum of the College of Surgeons.



Sir Charles was physician to King Charles II. and attended him at his death. Of this illness a very elaborate detail, in latin, is preserved in the library of the Society of Antiquaries, with copies of the prescriptions, curious medical documents of their kind, and rendered still more curious by some of them being signed by no fewer than *fourteen physicians!*

It begins :—

“ Feb. 2, 1684.

“ Ad octavam præcise horam Rex serenissimus Carolus II. lecto recens relicto, dum in cubiculo lenitur inambulabat, inordinatum quendam in cerebro sensit motum, cui mox aphonía motusque convulsivi vehementiores succedebant.

“ Aderant fortè tunc ex Medicis Regiis omnino duo, qui ut tanto Regum optimi periculo maturè prospicerent, venam ei in brachio dextro aperuerunt, sanguinisque eduxerunt uncias circiter sedecim.

“ Interim et cæteri Medici per celerrimos, nuncios advocati, in Regis subsidium convolarunt; hâbitoque inter se consilio, omnem navarunt operam, ut periclitanti Majestati suppetias ferrent præsentaneas.”

\* \* \* \* \*

“ Aderat etiam inclytus ille heros, Regis frater unicus, Regnique optimo jure hæres, Jacobus hinc Eboraci quidem et Albaniae Dux illustrissimus, hodiè vero Britanniarum augustissimus Monarcha, qui summa in Regem pietate, et plusquam fraterno amore affectus, de illius salute usque adeo sollicitus fuit, ut a decumbentis lecto vix unquam decedere sustinuerit, nunc totus in luctu versans, nunc sedulus ipsemet exiguendis Medicorum consiliis invigilans alias ab Archiatro Cœlesti opem auxiliumque ardentissimis precibus votisque et gemitibus subinde effusis implorans, ut omnibus constiteris maluisse ipsum charissimi fratris consortis perfrui, quam Sceptro, frustrà reluctantibus Fatis. Nam post tot amicorum vota et suspiria, post omne genus medelæ a fidissimis juxta et eruditissimis Medicis tentatum, Regum optimus Orthopnæa lethali ex improviso, correptus, quæ cum subinde violentiam remitteret, mox acrius recrudesceret, fomite mali perpetuo superstite, tandem toto naturæ robore dolorum immanitate attrito, mortalem coronam placide deposuit, ut acciperet immortalem.

“ Expiravit Februar. sexto paulo post meridiem, anno ætatis quinquagesimo quarto ad finem decurrente.”

“ The following is the account of the opening of the body :—

“ In Caroli Secundi augustissimi Britanniarum

Regis Corpore aperto post mortem reperi-  
bantur,—

1°. In cerebri cortice Venæ et Arteriæ super  
modum repletæ.

2°. Cerebri tum ventriculi omnes serosâ quâdam  
materiâ inundati, tum ipsa substantia consimili  
humore haud leviter imbuta.

3°. Thoraci dextri lateris, Pulmones Pleuræ  
tenaciter adhærentes, sinistra vero plane liberi,  
quemadmodum ex Naturæ instituto in sanis esse  
solet.

4°. Pulmonum substantia neutiquam culpanda  
quidem sed sanguine referta.

5°. Cor amplum firmumque, et in omnibus rec-  
tissimè formatum.

6°. In insimo ventre nihil præter naturale, nisi  
quod hepatis, color ad lividitatem inclinaret, fortè  
a sanguinis, inibi restitantis pleonasmo, quo renes  
et lien cernebantur suffarcinati.”

Sir Charles died February 1693, and was buried  
at Crawford; his epitaph records some of his vir-  
tues thus:—

“ Inter Medicos Hippocrates.  
Inter Mathematicos Euclides.  
Suavissimis moribus indutus  
Omnibus Affabilis,  
Cunctis vitæ officiis Æqualibus Civis,  
Maritus, Pater, Amicus Optimus.”



## TRAPHAM.

During the civil wars, many were made doctors by a military mandate, and the greatest outrage done to surgery and science by this mode of proceeding, was in the person of Thomas Trapham, who was licensed to practice chirurgery, at Oxford, March 3, 1633, and May 19, 1649. The said Thomas Trapham, chirurgion to the General of the Parliament Army, was created Batchelor of Physic, while the said General Cromwell and his officers were seated in their gowns in the doctors seats. He was a bitter enemy to Charles the First, “to whose body, after his decollation, in the latter end of January 1648, he put his hand to open and embalm, and when that was done, he sewed his head upon his body; and that being done also, he said to the company then present, that he sewed on the head of a goose.” He attended Cromwell at the battle of Worcester, was a great man among his party, and got what he pleased. After the restoration he retired to Abingdon, to practise among the brethren, where he died, 1683.—Vide also *Nugæ Chirurgicæ*, p. 183.

## SYDENHAM,

Who has been called the father of physic among the moderns, seems to have been always a favourer of republican principles. When a commoner of Magdalen-hall, while other students bore arms for the king, he left the university and went to London, where he fell in with Dr. Cox, at whose instance he studied physic. He was afterwards made fellow of All Souls' College, in the place of one of those who had been ejected for their loyalty. This political feeling seems to have belonged to his family: his elder brother was one of Oliver Cromwell's Council, some time Governor of the Isle of Wight, "a great rumper," and one of the committee of safety. From the side he took in politics, it was not likely, in the reign of Charles, that he should have been a fashionable physician, which, considering the great extent of his practice, is the greater proof of his talents and skill.

To the simplicity of Sydenham's practice, the *Materia Medica* owes its riddance of many useless and nauseous specifics. He considered it "like an assemblage of trees bearing many leaves but little fruit;" and it may be questioned, whether the fruit and the foliage, do not bear in the same proportion, even in this day. All his maxims and rules were founded upon repeated observations

on the nature and properties of diseases, and the power of remedies; he studied more at the bedside than any of his predecessors. He it was who first threw out a hint, that diseases might be classed from their external character, a hint carried into effect by Sauvages and Cullen.

The leading feature of his character was candour; he lays open his doubts and his ignorance with a noble sincerity, and confesses, that when he thought he had by study and observation, obtained a sure method of treating fevers, he found he had only opened his eyes, to fill them with dust.

It has been charged upon Sydenham, that he deserted his post in the plague—that he escaped to “disgrace and safety.” This may be true, but it is equally true, that Dr. Hodges, who did stay, lost all his practice, and was rewarded, by the glory of being the supposed depository of the plague he had been exposed to.

It appears, however, that many medical men fell a sacrifice to their duty, and it is impossible to read the following account of the great desolation of the city, without feeling, at the same time, a rising doubt that the stoutest and the best among us might not have acted, and felt, as Sydenham seems to have done, on the subject of contagion.



Tillison writes to Dr. Sancroft as follows:—

(Ellis's Letters, MS. Harl. 3785, fol. 50, *Orig.*)

“ Sep. 14th, 1665.

“ REVEREND SIR,

\* \* \* \* \*

“ We are in good hopes that God in his mercy will put a stop to this sad calamity of sickness; but the desolation of the City is very great. That heart is either steel or stone that will not lament this sad visitation, and will not bleed for those unutterable sorrows.

“ It is a time, God knows, that one woe courts another; those that are sick are in extreme sorrow; the poor are in need; those that are in health are in fear of infection on the one side, and the wicked inventions of hellish rebellious spirits to put us in an uproar on the other side.

“ What eye would not weep to see so many habitations uninhabited; the poor sick not visited; the hungry not fed; the grave not satisfied! Death stares us continually in the face in every infected person that passeth by us; in every coffin which is daily and hourly carried along the streets. The bells never cease to put us in mind of our mortality.

“ The custom was, in the beginning, to bury

the dead in the night only ; now, both night and day will hardly be time enough to do it.

“ For the last week, mortality did too apparently evidence that, that the dead was piled in heaps above ground for some hours together, before either time could be gained, or place to bury them in.

“ The Quakers (as we are informed) have buried in their piece of ground a thousand for some weeks together last past.

“ Many are dead in Ludgate, Newgate, and Christ Church Hospital, and many other places about the town, which are not included in the bill of mortality.

“ The disease itself (as is acknowledged by our practitioners in physic) was more favourable in the beginning of the contagion ; now more fierce and violent ; and they themselves do likewise confess to stand amazed to meet with so many various symptoms which they find amongst their patients. One week the general distempers are botches and boils ; the next week as clear-skinned as may be ; but death spares neither. One week, full of spots, and tokens ; and perhaps the succeeding, none at all. Now taken with a vomiting and looseness, and within two or three days almost a general raging madness. One while patients used to linger

four or five days, at other times not forty-eight hours; and at this very time we find it more quick than ever it was. Many are sick, and few escape. Where it has had its fling, there it decreases; where it has not been long, there it increases. It reigned most heretofore in alleys, &c. now it domineers in the open streets. The poorer sort was most afflicted; now the richer bear a share.

“ Captain Colchester is dead. Fleetham and all his family are clearly swept away, except one maid. Dr. Burnett, Dr. Glover, and one or two more of the College of Physicians, with Dr. O’Dowd, which was licensed by my Lord’s Grace of Canterbury, some surgeons, apothecaries, and Johnson the chemist, died all very suddenly. Some say (but God forbid that I should report it for truth) that these, in a consultation together, if not all, yet the greatest part of them, attempted to open a dead corpse which was full of the tokens; and being in hand with the dissected body, some fell down dead immediately, and others did not outlive the next day at noon.

“ All is well and in safety at your house, God be thanked. Upon Tuesday last, I made it my day’s work to kindle fires, in every room of the house where I could do it, and aired all the bed-clothes and bedding at the fires, and so let them all lie abroad until this morning; the feather bed in the back chamber was almost spoiled with the



heavy weight of carpets and other things upon it. I am afraid I have been too tedious, and therefore beg your pardon, and take my leave, who am,

Reverend Sir,  
your most faithful humble servant,

JO. TILLISON.

“Brimstone, hops, pepper, and frankincense, &c. I use to perfume the rooms with.

For yourself.”

The College of Physicians have a small copy of Sydenham's Works, with manuscript notes. It belonged to Sir John Pringle, who always carried it with him in his carriage. Sir John gave it Dr. Moore a short time before his death, saying, it contained the essence of all he knew of medicine.

## SIR THOMAS MILLINGTON

Millingtonia—in botany, a supposed new genus, consecrated by the younger Linnæus, to the memory of Sir Thomas Millington, who is recorded by Grew to have first suggested to him the fecundating notions about the antlers of plants. Millingtonia is now applied as the name of a new East India genus in *Diadelphia Decandria*, by Mr. Donn.

Sir Thomas Millington was physician to King William. Sir Richard Blackmore, Dr. Laurence, Radcliffe, and Millington, seem to have differed as much with Dr. Bidloo, and the rest of his Majesty's Dutch burgo-master-doctors, as the surgeons did. Bidloo had very great influence with the King, was very jealous of his own power, and whenever he wanted to carry a point, always held his argument in Dutch. Radcliffe in his blunt way spoke his mind, and Ronjat, the surgeon, had a sharp contest with him on the subject of a broken bone. Bidloo, for his own purposes, at first insinuating that there was no fracture, and afterwards wanting to interfere with the treatment of it. Bidloo, finding that he could not carry his point, said "that the right channel bone was broken. Then his Majesty ask'd, *If it was well set?* And the Doctor answering, *No;*

he said to Mr. *Ronjat*, his surgeon, *justify yourself, Monsieur Ronjat, is it well set?* Mr. *Ronjat* made answer, *that it was well set; but that the jolting of the coach, and the loosening of the bandage, had occasioned that disunion.*” *Ronjat* then turned to *Bidloo* and said “You are here either in the character of a physician, or in that of a surgeon; if the former, you have nothing to do with bandages; if the latter, *C’est moi qui suis le Premier Chirurgien du Roi.*”

The death of Sir Thomas is thus recorded in the Annals of the College:—

“Jan. 5, 1703-4, This day about 4 in ye afternoon, departed this life, that excellent person Sir Thomas Millington, in ye 75th year of his age, and ye 7th of his continued Presidentship of this College. Bred at Westminster Schoole, afterwards Fellow of All Souls’ College in Oxford, and ye great ornament of both. Sidleian, Professor of Natural Philosophy in yt University; and whilst he discovered to his auditors in his admirable lectures from yt chair, ye more secret methods of nature, he together with Bp. Wilkins, Mr. Boyle, Dr. Wallis, Sir Christopher Wren, Dr. Willis, and other ingenious persons there laid ye first foundation of ye Royal Society. Admitted afterwards into ye College of Physicians, London, he soon became ye delight of it, affable in his conversation, firm in his friendships, diligent and happy in his



practice, candid and open in consultations, eloquent to an extraordinary degree in his publick speeches; being chosen President, his behaviour was grave, temper'd with courtesy, steady without obstinacy, continually intent upon ye good of ye College, wch by his prudent conduct he redeem'd from ye greatest part of a very heavy debt. Being made first physician to their Majesties King William and Queen Mary, and afterwards to her present Majesty Queen Ann; he discharged yt duty with great skill, diligence and affection. Some *five* years before his death, he was cut for ye stone in ye bladder, which operation and ye whole course of ye cure he bore with admirable piety and exemplary courage. At length worn out with little but often returning fevers, and a nervous asthma, he piously and quietly paid his last debt to nature. Thus died this great person, but ye memory of his virtues never can."

*Vide Coll. Ann. lib. 7, pag: 211.*

## RADCLIFFE.

It is greatly to be lamented that the professional sagacity and decisive character of such a man, should live only in tradition: but it ceases to be matter of surprise, when it is recollected that he had as great a contempt for Physic, as he had for physicians, and that it was his avowed opinion, that the whole mystery of the art might be written on half a sheet of paper! Yet it may be doubted, whether a more luminous lesson was ever given, than in his declaration that, when a young practitioner, he possessed twenty remedies for every disease, and before the end of his career, he found twenty diseases, for which he had not one remedy. His reputation seems to have run faster than his experience, for we find that before he had been two years in the medical world, his business was very extensive, and among those of the higher ranks. And here we have a singular exemplification, of how much the fortunes of the ablest men are dependent on fortuitous circumstances.

It appears that Radcliffe came to London, and settled in Bow Street, Covent Garden, in 1684, and in the following year died Dr. Short, a doctor by royal mandate (1668), who was in great practice in that neighbourhood. Dr. Lower, whom he is said

to have succeeded, had at that time no business to succeed to, for he had joined the Whig party, in 1678, thinking they would carry all before them, but being mistaken, he lost the Royal patronage, and consequently his practice. Lower had also the Protestant interest very much at heart, and used to shew that humour in every visit he made. He went very often to Nell Gwynne, and was so successful in getting from her all the intrigues of the court, that the king himself used often to complain of him, and say, he did him more mischief than a troop of horse.

Radcliffe was a man of great decision,—the result of great talent; his prognosis was given with a tone of confidence. His *prediction* of the fate of the Duke of Beaufort (*a happy guess,*) is a striking proof of it. For this reason he was frequently referred to, as an oracle, to decide disputed points of practice.

At this period great stress used to be laid on critical days—a slight purge on the *sixth* day of acute fever, was considered fatal. A person died, of what was termed an hypercatharsis, having taken a gentle aperient on the sixth day of an acute fever. The person who prescribed it produced the recipe, and in his own justification pleaded the mildness of the medicine. Radcliffe, whose judgment was referred to, after an examen of the *nature* and *stage* of the fever, acknowledged indeed the mildness of the cathartic, but in his own emphatical style, pro-



nounced *it was ill-timed, disturbed a crisis, and thereby killed the patient.*

His ready wit was the cause of much trouble to him—Dr. Marshall persecuted him for a witticism—and he excited Swift's spleen, who was pleased to call him “that puppy Radcliffe.” His wit blazed without respect to persons, the king himself not excepted; nor did the ties of neighbourly friendship restrain him, as we learn from the well-known anecdote of his neighbour Kneller.

“Quoth Kneller, I'll certainly stop up that door,  
“If ever I find it unlock'd any more:  
“Your threats” replies Radcliffe. “disturb not my ease,  
“And so you d'ont *paint* it, e'en do what you please.”

But it was not so much his wit as his daring genius, that set at defiance and put him above the rules that shackled the dunces of the day, that produced so much bitterness against him. It was his good sense, his practical knowledge, his decision in danger, and his ready expedient, that commanded the confidence of patients, and excited the envy of competitors. Erudition had nothing to do with his success, which caused heart-burnings in the erudite as well as the illiterate, and produced from his learned and obliged friend Mead, the cold compliment that “he was deservedly at the head of his profession, *on account of his great medical penetration and experience.*”

Among the many singularities related of Radcliffe, it has been noticed, that when he was in a convivial party, he was unwilling to leave it, even though sent for by persons of the highest distinction. Whilst he was thus deeply engaged at a tavern, he was called on by a grenadier, who desired his immediate attendance on his *Colonel*; but no entreaties could prevail on the disciple of Esculapius to postpone his sacrifice to Bacchus. “Sir,” quoth the soldier, “*my orders are to bring you.*” And being a very powerful man, he took him up in his arms and carried him off per force. After traversing some dirty lanes, the doctor and his escort arrived at a narrow alley—“What the D—l, is all this,” said Radcliffe, “your colonel don’t live here?” “No,” said his military friend,—“no, my *colonel* does not live here—but my *comrade* does, and he’s worth *two* of the *colonel*,—so, by G—d, doctor, if you dont do your *best* for *him*, it will be the *worst* for *you!*”

The facetiæ of Radcliffe would fill a volume—the following is selected from a great many, as characteristic of his practical tact.

A lady of high rank and fortune, too anxiously careful of the health of an only son, as well as too partial to his merits, sent for Dr. Radcliffe relative to his health. On a previous consultation with the lady about the malady of his patient, she very gravely told him, that, ‘although she could not say her son was immediately affected with any disorder, yet

she was afraid, from the excess of his spirits, and the very great prematurity of his understanding, he might, without the doctor's medical interference, verify the old proverb—soon ripe, soon rotten.

The doctor, by this time, having pretty well taken the measure of the lady's understanding, as well as of the wants of her son, desired to see the patient—when, presently, a servant introduced a strong chubby boy, between nine and ten years of age, eating a large piece of bread and butter. ‘Well sir,’ says the doctor, ‘what's your name?’ ‘Daniel, sir,’ says the boy. ‘And pray, Master Daniel, who gave you that fine piece of bread and butter?’ ‘My godfathers and godmothers, who did promise and vow three things, &c. &c.’ and so was going on with the answer in the catechism. ‘Very well, indeed,’ continued the doctor, very gravely.—‘Now, Master Daniel, let me feel your pulse.—Quite well there too:—so that, my dear madam, (turning round to the mother) you may make yourself perfectly easy about your son, as he is not only in good health at present, but in no danger of losing that health by too much premature knowledge.

According to the fashion of the times, Radcliffe seems to have been a jolly companion, and he complains bitterly that he should have been opposed in the House of Commons, by a man “with whom he had drank many hundred bottles.” The Mitre Tavern, in Fleet Street, was frequently fa-



voured with his presence, where with Lord Colepeper, and his friend Billy Nutley, he made libations to Bacchus, which he confesses with heart-felt sorrow, in the following pathetic letter, written to Lord Denbigh, just *fifteen days* before he died.

“ *Carshalton, 15th Oct. 1714.*

“ My very good Lord,

“ This being the last time that, in all probability, I shall ever put pen to paper, I thought it my duty to employ it in writing to you, since I am now going to a place from whence I can administer no advice to you, and whither you, and all the rest who survive me, are obliged to come, sooner or later.

“ Your lordship is too well acquainted with my temper, to imagine that I could bear the reproaches of my friends, and threats of my enemies, without laying them deeply at heart; especially since there are no grounds for the one, nor foundation for the other; and you will give me credit, when I say that these considerations, alone, have shortened my days.

“ I dare persuade myself, that the reports which have been raised of me, relating to my non-attendance on the queen in her last moments, are received by you, as by others of my constant and assured friends, with an air of contempt and disbelief,

and could wish that they made as little an impression upon me. But, I find them to be insupportable, and have experienced, that though there are repellent medicines for diseases of the body, those of the mind are too strong and impetuous for the feeble resistance of the most powerful artist.

“ In a word, the decays of nature tell me, that I cannot live long; and the menacing letter inclosed, will tell you from what quarter my death comes. Give me leave, therefore, to be in earnest, once for all, with my very good lord, and to use my endeavours to prolong your life, that cannot add a span’s length to my own.

“ Your lordship knows how far an air of jollity has obtained amongst you and your acquaintance, and how many of them, in a few years, have died martyrs to excess; let me conjure you, therefore, for the good of your own soul, the preservation of your health, and the benefit of the publick, to deny yourself the destructive liberties you have hitherto taken, and which, I must confess, with a heart full of sorrow, I have been too great a partaker of in your company.

“ Your are to consider, (Oh! that I myself had done so!) that men, especially those of your exalted rank, are born to nobler exercises, than those of eating and drinking; and that by how much the more eminent your station is, by so much the more

accountable will you be for the discharge of it. Nor will your duty to God, your country, or yourself, permit you to anger the *first*, in robbing the *second* of a patriot and defender, by not taking a due care of the *third*; which will be accounted downright murder in the eyes of that incensed Deity, that will most assuredly avenge it.

“ The pain that afflicts my nerves, interrupts me from making any other request to you, than that your lordship would give credit to the words of a dying man, who is fearful that he has been in a great measure, an abettor and encourager of your intemperance; and would therefore, in these his last moments, when he is most to be credited, dehort you from the pursuit of it; and that in these the days of your youth—for you have many years yet to live, if you do not hasten your own death—you would give ear to the voice of the Preacher, whom you and I, with the rest of the company, have, in the midst of our riotous debauches, made light of, for saying, ‘ Rejoice, oh young man, in thy youth, and let thy heart cheer thee in the days of thy youth, and walk in the ways of thy heart, and in the sight of thine eyes: but know thou, that for all these things, God will bring thee to judgment.’

“ On which day, when the hearts of all men shall be laid open, may you and I, and all that sincerely repent of acting contrary to the revealed will in this



life, reap the fruits of our sorrows for our misdeeds, in a blessed resurrection; which is the hearty prayer of,

My very good lord,  
your lordship's most obedient,  
and most obliged servant,

JOHN RADCLIFFE.

Up to, or near to this period, religious subjects do not seem to have given him any concern, but he confessed, on reading some of the chapters in Genesis, that Moses was a clever fellow, and that if he had known him sooner, he would have read him through.

It is probable, notwithstanding the joke of Radcliffe's literary stores consisting only of a few books in the window seat, that he possessed a good library—for his executors requested Dr. Mead to accept it—and it is hardly to be supposed, that Mead, who was then a man of considerable consequence, would have been asked to accept anything that was not worthy of his fine collection. What became of it, however, does not appear; but there are still extant at Oxford, a great many of his manuscripts—such as a Journal of his Life, a diary in which many circumstances are related, appertaining to his domestic affairs and his practice—which shews his character in a different point of view to that generally taken of it; and it is difficult to doubt his love of learning and literature, who left a large fortune for the encouragement of both.

## SIR HANS SLOANE.

This illustrious character was born at Killileagh, in the north of Ireland, 1660. He succeeded Sir Isaac Newton as president of the Royal Society, was the founder of the British Museum, and president of the College of Physicians.

He settled in London, in the year 1684, and was in high vogue as a practitioner in Radcliffe's time, with whom he was acquainted, though they were never upon good terms. He continued in great practice till the year 1746, when he retired, and died six years afterwards.

On his arrival in London, he waited upon Sydenham, with a letter of recommendation from a friend, setting forth his qualifications in flaming terms—"he was a ripe scholar—a good botanist—a skilful anatomist." After Sydenham had perused this eulogy, and had eyed the Tyro very attentively; he said, "all this is mighty fine! but it won't do. Anatomy—botany—nonsense! Sir, I know an old woman in Covent Garden, who understands botany better; and as for anatomy, my butcher can dissect a joint full as well:—no, young man, all this is stuff; you must go to the bed-side, it is there you can alone learn disease.!"

Such was his first interview with that great man; but he afterwards took the kindest notice of him, frequently taking him in his chariot his favourite airing, to Acton and back again before dinner. In one of these rides, Sloane hinted his intention of going to Jamaica, for the purpose of getting his opinion: he remained silent, till the carriage stopped as usual at the green park, that Sloane might walk home through the park, when he said, “ You must not go—you had better drown yourself in Rosemond’s pond, as you go along.” He did go, however, and brought home such a variety of plants, as surprised Mr. Ray, who did not think there were so many in both the Indies.

He neglected no means that could promote literature and science. He presented to the Apothecaries’ company the fee simple of their garden, on conditions, as honourable to their fame as to his: it was a proof of their zeal, and of his liberality and love of a science, that consecrates his name in one of the most stately West India plants. It was his public spirit and humanity that suggested the plan of the “ Dispensary,” the opposition to which gave rise to Garth’s celebrated and beautiful poem, by which alone the memory of the contests, and of the parties concerned, is now preserved. Sloane is, indeed, a splendid exception: unfading laurels adorn his bust; but, his greatest glory was succeeding to the chair of Newton, in the Royal Society. He had previously acted as secre-



tary, and the sense they entertained of his services and virtues, was evinced, by the manner in which they resented an insult offered to him by Dr. Woodward, who was expelled the council. Sir Hans was reading a paper of his own composition, when Woodward said something grossly insulting about it. Dr. Sloane complained, and moreover stated, that he had often affronted him by making grimaces at him; upon which, Dr. Arbuthnot got up, and begged to be “informed, what distortion of a man’s face constituted a grimace?” Sir Isaac Newton was in the chair when the question of expulsion was agitated; and when it was pleaded in his favour that, “he was a good natural philosopher;” Sir Isaac remarked “that, in order to belong to that society, a man ought to be a good moral philosopher, as well as a natural one!”

About this period, Sir Richard Blackmore retired from the college; a very amiable man, who became subject to the satirical shafts of Pope, and a poet whom Dryden said—

“Writ to the rumblings of his coach wheels.”

while as physician he treated him worse—

“Would’st thou be damn’d at once, and perish whole,

“Trust Blackmore with thy health, and Milbourne with thy soul.”

The following correspondence, however, affords a very honourable testimony of his worth and talents.

*From Sir HANS SLOANE, and Sir RICHARD  
BLACKMORE.*

*London, October 6, 1722.*

SIR,

The statutes of the College of Physicians requiring a new election of an elect, in the place of any who shall remove to any considerable distance out of town for a year, is the occasion of this trouble. The electors are unwilling to lose one of your abilities, if they can probably expect your assistance in their affairs; but, if your resolution be not to return to town, or remain in it, they must, in a short time, elect another; but have desired me before to intreat your answer, whether they may be so happy as to expect your company? and, if they should by that answer be so unfortunate to be obliged to fill that place, they have desired me to intreat the continuance of your friendship and good offices as a member of their body.

I am,  
Your most obedient,  
and most humble Servant,

HANS SLOANE.

*To Sir Richard Blackmore.*

I have the honour of your's, and acknowledge myself obliged by the marks of respect to me, which you there express. In answer, this will inform you, that I am determined to continue in the country retirement which I have chosen, where I hope to pass my short remains of life in peace and quiet. I am convinced, therefore, that I am no longer qualified to be an elect, and am well satisfied that a choice should be made of some other fellow of the society to fill up the vacancy; and I heartily wish all happiness and prosperity to the worthy president of the college, of which I have had the honour to be a member so long.

I am,

Your most obedient humble Servant,

RICHARD BLACKMORE.

*Buxted, October 12, 1722.*

*To Sir Hans Sloane.*

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In the *Nugæ Chirurgicæ*, p. 103, the celebrated Locke is placed among the doctors. That he took his degree of batchelor of physic, Feb. 6, 1674, appears by Ant. Wood; that he attended Lord Ashley, and the Countess of Northumberland, we know; but the following extracts from letters to Sir Hans Sloane, afford not only additional proof of *his practice*, but how much his mind was engaged in medical enquiries, which accident alone directed to other pursuits. In one letter, he says:



“ It is very kindly and charitably done of you to send me some news, from the commonwealth of letters, into a place where I seldome meet with any thing beyond the observation of a scabby sheep, or a lame horse. The great spleen you found in the woman you opened seems to be owing, as you rightly judged, to the polypi which swelled the sanguinary vessels, since the other parts of the spleen were every way right. This is an observation very well worth recording and publishing, and may give great light about tumours in the abdomen, which are not always to be imputed to aposthumes, or collections of peccant humours. Polypus's in the blood vessels are found so frequently, that I think they would deserve to be treated of as a particular disease ; if there were collections enough of their history and symptoms to build any theory on, and lay a foundation for their cure. Pray when you doe me the favour to write to me again, doe not forget to set downe the diameter of the biggest vessels you found in that spleen, what part of an inch it was.”

In another he observes :—

“ Now I am writing, give me leave to say one word more, though on a subject very different. The story I have heard of the performance of a strong man, now in London, would be beyond belief were there not so many witnesses to it. I think they deserve to be communicated to the

present age, and recorded to posterity ; and, therefore, I think you cannot omit to give him a place in y<sup>r</sup> Transactions ; his age, country, stature, bigness, make, weight, and then the several proofs he has given of his strength, w<sup>ch</sup> may be a subject of speculation and enquiry to the philosophical world.” *Bibl. Sloan.* 4052.

And lastly he writes with considerable anxiety for advice :—

“ Dear Sir,

“ I have a patient here sick of the fever of this season ; it seems not violent, but I am told ’tis a sort y<sup>t</sup> is not easily got off ; I desire to know of you what y<sup>e</sup> fevers in town are, and what methods you find most successful in them ; I shall be obliged by your favour, if you will give me a word or two by to-morrow’s post, and direct it for me to be left at Mr. Harrison’s, in the Crown in Harlow. I am, sir,

Your most humble servant,

J. LOCKE.”

This is sufficient to authorise his having a niche with the “ *Medici Family*.” And, for the sake of Medical Science, and the cause of humanity, we may regret the accident that took *Dr. Locke* out of practice.

A few years after Sloane had retired, 1748, he

was visited by the Prince and Princess of Wales, the father of King George III. who went to see a collection that was the ornament of the nation, which the Prince duly appreciated, and at the same time, in expressing his sentiments, said “How much it must conduce to the benefit of learning, and how great an honour will redound to Britain, to have it established for public use to the latest <sup>5</sup>pöterity.”

The nature and extent of this collection, may be understood from a sketch given of this flattering visit of royalty to their venerable physician and friend, in the *Gentleman's Magazine*, 1740, p. 300, which is too minute, and too long for insertion.



## SIR EDWARD HULSE.

A few years before Sir Edward died, he became childish, and was disturbed by the continual fear that he should die in want. To obviate this distressing feeling, his family used to put some guineas in his pocket every day, which they made him believe he had taken as fees, so that when he was complaining, they would say, "Why, Sir Edward, your memory fails, you forget you have taken so many fees this morning." He would then put his hand in his pocket, and feeling them, would be much pleased.

Sir Edward seemed to be aware of approaching infirmities, for ten years before his death, he declined visiting any patient, unless accompanied by his friend Dr. Watson.

## JOHN SOAME,

Author of a work on the virtues of “Hampstead Wells,” where he resided in 1734. Sir Roger de Coverley had not greater faith in the Widow Truby’s water, than Soame had in Hampstead water. He had experienced great relief from them, and so great an admirer was he of them, that he *constantly shaved* himself with them. This *important* piece of information we find in his book, which contains much curious and amusing matter, accompanied with such copious effusions of admiration, as leave some doubts as to the *disinterestedness* of his partiality.

The Doctor’s performance is below mediocrity; the then infantine state of chemistry, may perhaps be pleaded in extenuation, for “what can we reason but from what we know?”

Even with this apology, this is, however, a poor specimen of the author’s chemical talents; for in a book of “Experiments,” we find the whole resolve itself into two observations, or experiments, viz. *weighing* and *evaporation*; from the first he concludes, that the specific gravity is less than that of distilled water; and from the second, that not the least particle of *caput mortuum* remained. Unfortunately for the Doctor’s accuracy, these inferences

are in the same predicament as Mrs. Freeman's four-worded quotation from the Italian, in which, according to her sagacious instructor's report—

“ De two first oords are wrong, and de two last oords are not right,”

as has been shewn, by the analysis of John Bliss, in 1802.

There was a time when the Hampstead mineral was in great repute. There was a “ Long-room ” and Tavern attached to the Spring, so that the attendants might qualify the water with a little wine. There flourished at the same time, Chad's Wells; Bagnigge Wells; Islington Spa; White Conduit House, and the notorious Dog and Duck :—

“ Where oft the city-spark, from dirty business free,  
Sipp'd the froth'd syllabub, or fragrant tea ;  
While with slic'd ham, scrap'd beef, and burnt champagne,  
The 'prentice lover sooth'd his amorous pain.”



## MEAD.

This illustrious character was the son of a dissenting minister, (*Nugæ Canoræ*, p. 5,) who had fifteen children, and having a fortune something above the mediocrity of his class, engaged a tutor of the name of Nesbitt, who taught latin rather by habit than rule. This *domestic academy* was dispersed by the troubles which happened in 1683, and Richard was sent to the school of a very able man, who was attached to the same cause as Old Mead, who fled to Holland.

It seldom happens that a young physician becomes eminent without a good address, and a good word from some medical patron of eminence. Mead was allowed to be *artis medicæ decus*, and besides personal qualifications, had the good fortune, early in life, to become a favorite with Radcliffe, whose house he took, and with it, a considerable portion of his practice.

A zealous whig, and attached to the court both by principle and gratitude, he never suffered politics to interfere with his friendship, constantly associating with Garth, Arbuthnot, and Freind, for whom he became bail, on his release from the tower, which he had been very instrumental in obtaining. The bond of amity which united Freind and Mead, was subsequently drawn closer by a

common quarrel they had with Woodward, on a point of practice relating to the treatment of small-pox. As these two were considered *Fratelli*, or associates against the general practice, a party was formed against them, and the plan and its advocates were zealously decried, but most particularly by Woodward, who wrote what he called the *State of Physic*. This work should either have been neglected as unworthy of notice, or answered by reason and argument; but it led to much bitter controversy, and rencontre with swords, at Gresham college, and an outrage on Woodward's memory, which would have been inexcusable in the heat of controversy; but being made twenty years after his death, was very discreditable to the candour and character of Mead, and which, with his "damning Cheyne and his regimen," before the Reverend Robert Leake, confirms the opinion given of him, that, with all his virtues, he was "both proud and passionate."

Woodward, who seems to have been better qualified to have understood what passed in the bowels of the earth, than in the bowels of the human subject, was an eccentric, turbulent, vain fellow, and, as before mentioned, expelled the Royal Society. His vanity was conspicuously shewn by his will, and may be confirmed by an anecdote.

Bromfield's father, who was a commissioner of the stamp office, used often to meet Woodward at

Nando's coffee-house. Woodward was one day wondering, how the great lived so long as they did, considering their luxurious mode of living—"to day," says he, for instance, "I dined with the Archbishop of Canterbury, and the venison was so rich, that I feel my stomach disordered by it." A wag, who was by, and who had seen the doctor that day at dinner at a chop house, cried out, —— "you and I, doctor, eat off the same haunch; only a very thin partition parted us."

At this period, it was the custom for physicians to attend at the coffee-houses, as a rendezvous, where they might be found by patients and apothecaries. Mead attended Tom's in the morning, and Batson's in the evening, as Radcliffe had done before. One evening, while Mead was at Batson's, a venerable figure, with a long wig hanging down over each shoulder, came into the coffee room, and enquired if Dr. Mead frequented it? He was shewn Mead, and going up to the doctor, and making a very low bow, asked if he might be permitted to sit in the box with him; Mead said, that it was a public room, where every one had certainly a right to place themselves as they pleased; the stranger called for some refreshment, but said nothing more. It was not long before one of Mead's friends came to tell him of some medal he had been wishing for, and Dr. Nesbit, (the author of the work on Osteogony) came to tell him of some edition of Pliny. Nesbit went on



then to give him an account of some pictures that were to be sold, and afterwards about some paper-hangings and silk; at length Mead paid his reckoning and went away. The stranger, who had till then been silent and attentive, addressed himself very respectfully to Nesbit, and begged to know his profession,—“guess,” says Nesbit,—“a silk-mercero?” said the stranger—“no,”—“a stationer?”—“no,”—“a painter?”—“no, I’m a Doctor of Physic, my name is Nesbit.” “Bless me!” said the stranger, “you are not a man of eminence then, I never heard of your name before!” Nesbit got up in a passion, and left the room.

Besides resorting to coffee-houses, for professional purposes, it was the practice for physicians to attend at the houses of apothecaries, where the usual fee was half a guinea.

Mead’s medical talents were eulogized by Pope,

“I’ll do what Mead and Cheselden advise.”—

and by the author of the “Night Thoughts,” who says:—

“Alive by miracle! or what is next, alive by *Mead*.”

That he was a scholar, and a “ripe and good one,” is admitted by all, and in matters of classical taste, his judgment was as much respected, as his skill was, in affairs of health. When Shakespeare’s monument was to be erected, he was consulted

about a motto—" *Amor publicus posuit*," was proposed. Mead objected to the word *amor*, as not occurring in old classical inscriptions; but Pope, Garth, and Arbuthnot insisted that it should stand. "Oh, very well, said Mead, be it so, I see how it is:"—

" *Omnia vincit Amor et nos cedamus Amori.*"

Some of his medical writings, however, are feeble—his treatise " *De Imperio Solis ac Lunæ*," contains notions unworthy so great a man. He states a case of a lady, whose countenance always developed itself with the increase of the moon, so that the eclat of her charms depended on the influence of the planets. Of the same cast is his pamphlet, (1735), on the specific, or the introduction of the *lichen cinereus terrestris*, which was an ingredient in Dampier's receipt for hydrophobia. Boerhaave laughed at this prescription, as much as Mead did at Boerhaave's cure for the small-pox without suppuration.

When Mead left his house in Bloomsbury Square, which had been so long the medical head-quarters of the town, he let it to Sir John Rushout, who was beset by a most furious Doctor, William Baylies, a very extraordinary character, who thinking to balance accounts with Sir John, opposed him as member for Worcester, but got no votes. When he settled in London, he took a magnificent house, in Great George-street, next door to General

Guise's, where he kept an excellent table, and fine carriages, gave splendid entertainments, rich wines, and was remarkable for an enormous tye-wig. He lived here about six months, put off notes, and then was obliged to abscond, or he would have been seriously treated on account of some money transactions. He had been originally an apothecary, and first settled as a physician at Bath, where he wrote on the waters. He went to Berlin; when he was introduced to the King of Prussia, the king said to him, “ Vous devez avoir tué beaucoup de monde ? ” — “ Pas autant que votre Majesté ; ” — this reply pleased Old Frederick.

Among Mead's many and great virtues, his charity was very conspicuous. He was a subscriber to all the public hospitals himself, and it was by his advice, that the wretched miser *Guy*, redeemed the honour of his character, by the appropriation of an ill-gotten fortune, to the best purposes of humanity—a *public hospital*.

Notwithstanding his good and rare qualities, Mead, like other mortals, had his failings, and it is said in his old age had notions of gallantry, not consistent with the gravity of his character and time of life; and moreover, that he took lessons of Dupré, the French dancing-master, (*Nugæ Chirurgicæ*, p. 239.) The late Sir George Baker, related, to a much esteemed medical friend of mine, some anecdotes very corroborative of the



story of the blacksmith's daughter of Fetter-lane. It was at this period that he wrote one of his most useful works, "*Monita et præcepta medica*," in which he gives practical precepts for preserving the powers of body and mind to a good old age—lessons on longevity from a man at four-score command respect.

There was a great medical controversy in the City of Cork, and Mead was referred to. The following letter to one of the parties, affords us a specimen of his epistolary style, and of some of his practical notions :—

“ DR. MEAD TO DR. BLAIR,

*London, Nov. 24th, 1748.*

Sir,

“ I have received your letter of the 6th, and am sorry to see contests and warm disputes among physicians, whose education and knowledge of the world, ought to set them above behaviour *unbecoming* gentlemen. But your case is, I must needs say, very hard; to be reflected upon for ill-success in treating a patient, is not unusual; but to be attacked for curing in a desperate disease, is quite uncommon.

“ I have read the printed relation of *Mr. Baker's* case which you have been pleased to send me; that which you mention as published by *Dr. Rogers*,

or his friend, I have not yet seen. But it is most astonishing, that your enemies should give out, that the receipt which you have published as mine, should be forged. Such practices must, in the end, turn out to the shame and confusion of those who use them.

“ When *Dr. Rogers* wrote to me, by way of appeal to my judgment, I plainly told him, that although I could not be a judge of all the circumstances of *Mr. Baker's* case, yet as to the *tinctura antiphthisica*, to which he made his main objection, as unsafe and a kind of poison, it was a medicine which I had made use of with great success, for these fifty years : I wondered indeed that he should be a stranger to it, having been first invented by *Etmuller*, and recommended by our great *Mr. Boyle*, and published in almost all the foreign *Pharmacopœias*, as well as in our late *London* one. The cases in which I chiefly use it, are slow hectic fevers, particularly when attended with a looseness, profuse sweats, and coliquation of the humours; I reckon two or three drachms given at different times in cooling liquors, every four and twenty hours, to be a convenient dose.

“ I hope, that if *Dr. Rogers*, thinks fit to publish any thing as from me, he will be so fair as to do it in my own words.

“ If it can be of any service to you to shew this,

either to your friends or enemies, you have full liberty to do it; for I am always on the side of *truth* and *humanity*. I wish you always good success in your business, and am

*Sir,*

*Your most obedient, humble Servant,*

R. MEAD."

The celebrated bronze bust of Homer, of which Mead was so proud, the learned antiquarians of the present day dispute being Homer's. It is now in the Townley Gallery at the British Museum.

Mead is not the only person of his name, celebrated as a doctor of medicine.

In the church-yard at Ware, in Hertfordshire, on the South side of the church, is an altar monument to Wm. Mead, M. D. who died Oct. 28, 1652, aged 148 *years* and 9 months. And at Oxford, 1646, Robert Mead, who was a commissioner, was created Doctor of Physic. He died 1654.



## CHESOLDEN.

This eminent surgeon and anatomist, came before the public at an earlier period of life than almost any other, in the long list of professional excellence. He was a fellow of the Royal Society at twenty-one years of age, and at twenty-two gave lectures in surgery! He was truly master of his art, which he simplified, improved, and ornamented. Living at a period, considered as an intellectual æra in this country, he was the companion and friend of the “great master-spirits of the age,” the men of genius and taste.

He acquired great fame by his giving sight to a boy who was born blind; but what distinguished him most, was his skill in performing the operation of lithotomy. Persons came from all parts of the world for his professional assistance, and the arrival of a distinguished foreigner, is thus announced in May, 1734:--“Baron Carlsum, Sec. of State to the King of Sweden, lately arrived here for that purpose, was cut for the stone, at the house of Baron Sparr, by Mr. Cheselden, who took from him in *two minutes and four seconds*, two stones, each as big as a large walnut, and three of a smaller size.”

At this period, the great operations in surgery

were chiefly, if not entirely, in the hands of the London surgeons; a fact, which is confirmed by a curious advertisement in the Northampton Mercury, June 17, 1745, to this effect:—

“Whereas, I have for *several* years perform’d *occasionally* the great operations in surgery, and *repeatedly* cut for y<sup>e</sup> stone with success, even in *this* town, (a *very expensive* operation in London, and perform’d by *few* surgeons in the country), I take this opportunity of declaring, that I am ready to do it in any place within twenty miles round Northampton, on a reasonable consideration. And will *search* any one for y<sup>e</sup> stone at *my own* house, for half a guinea.

“For couching a cataract, I require no more than one guinea; and give my advice in *all* diseases of the eyes to y<sup>e</sup> *poor* gratis.

WILLIAM FABIAN, *Surgeon.*”

Notwithstanding Cheselden’s fame, and the emolument that must have accrued to him as a great operator, we are presented with the singular fact, that at fifty-six years of age, (1743) he was not worth £15,000. being relieved from serving the office of Sheriff on that account, (*Nugæ Chirurgicæ*, p. 197). Belchier, who was his pupil, went with him once to Chester to cut for the stone, for which he received 200 guineas, and in one year

while Belchier was with him he got £1500. by operations alone.

Cheselden took much pains to perfect himself in the operation of lithotomy, and went to Holland to see the celebrated Rau operate. About this time the operation was further improved by Douglas, who ran away with the laurels, and was complimented with the freedom of the City of London; and so much was the public curiosity awakened, that the Lord Chancellor, and several persons of high rank, repaired to St. Bartholomew's Hospital, to witness the operation performed in a novel manner by Mr. Dobbins, one of the Surgeons of that institution.

Up to this period, the operation of lithotomy had been practised upon very uncertain principles. Frere Jacques, an ill-treated clever man, had drawn the rude outlines of an operation. Here then it was at a stand—constantly complicated—always dangerous—often fatal. But Cheselden, our Cheselden, it was who first reduced the operation to sound principles, invented a simple method of performing it, which he practised with as much dexterity as success. And, undoubtedly, of all the operations of surgery, this is the most important in its consequences to the patient and the practitioner. A sufferer, after enduring the torments of the stone, takes leave of his family, and with the fortitude of a martyr, surrenders himself bound hand and foot,



to your discretion and skill—awful responsibility! you return him the living victory of science, or a corpse!

Cheselden had considerable taste in matters of art, the plan of Fulham-bridge was drawn by him.

In the frontispiece to Cheselden's great work on the Bones, Belchier is in the morning gown, and Wm. Sharp is the young man behind him: Cheselden himself is not represented, but chose to have his two young men, though he was originally in a drawing, in the possession of Belchier, who used to assert, that Cheselden was £ 1700. out of pocket by the work, so many of the plates were cancelled, and alterations made while he was about it. Douglas who wrote a peevish critique upon it, called Belchier up one morning at six o'clock, when the work was published, and asked him, if Cheselden was mad, by saying that he had not room enough in his work to write more on the bones—"What!" said he, "could he not get paper?"

He has been said to have been vain of his acquirements—be that as it may, he was a charitable and good man, he belonged to many public charities, and when the Foundling Hospital was first proposed he sent a benefaction with two lines from Pope:—

" 'Tis what the happy to the unhappy owe ;  
For what man gives, the Gods by him bestow."

## BLAIR.

“ We physicians were always politicians,” was a favourite expression of Warren’s, but nevertheless, there are very few instances of medical men embroiling themselves in political troubles.

Dr. Patrick Blair, however, who was in the rebellion of 1745, got himself into Newgate, and was condemned to be hanged. In the British Museum are several of his letters to Sir Hans Sloane, written in prison, soliciting his intercession, and in one of them he writes:—“ if you come towards Newgate, I hope you will favour me with a call.” Dr. Martyn, the professor of Botany, at Cambridge, supped with him in Newgate, the night previous to his expected execution. Blair had been all along confident that he should be reprieved; Dr. Martyn said, he sat pretty quietly till the clock struck nine, and then he got up and walked about the room; at ten he quickened his pace, and at twelve no reprieve coming, he cried out—“ By my troth! this is carrying the jest too far!” The reprieve, however, came soon after, and in due time a pardon. Blair went afterwards, and settled at Boston, in Lincolnshire, where he practised till his death.

## SIR JOHN HILL.

Sir John Hill, better known to the world as the Doctor on whom the epigram was written:—

For Physic and Farces,  
His equal there scarce is,  
His Farces are Physic,  
His Physic a Farce is.

was originally an apothecary in St. Martin's Lane.

When his first wife was in labour, he locked her in her chamber, and went out with the key in his pocket; the neighbours hearing her cries, forced the door open, and procured a midwife; the child died in a few days. A benevolent lady, who pitied Mrs. Hill's situation, brought her, among other things, a shirt to make child-bed linen of: Hill took off the neck and ruffles, and wore them at the play. He used to hint that he was a natural son of the Duke of Richmond, and sealed his letters with the Richmond arms. Haller, who corresponded with him, once asked Mr. Hudson about this circumstance;—he was always a lying fellow, and would say, that he found plants in situations, where nobody else could meet with them.

Shebbeare and he were once together in company; Shebbeare went away first, and Hill re-



marked of him, that he was the most impudent fellow, he had ever seen; Shebbeare the next day made the same observation on Hill to one of the company.

Hill once made his appearance at the Duke of Richmond's (who had been civil to him), in elegant mourning, with servants in mourning, handsome chariot, &c. He said, that a large estate had been unexpectedly bequeathed to him, that he had a borough at his command, and was come to lay it at the Duke's feet:—this farce was kept up for a fortnight, and then the whole was found to be a fabrication, and the Duke would never after suffer him to come into his house.

It was a conversation at Dr. Watson's, that first made Hill a quack; Hill's poverty was mentioned, and Dr. Watson was wondering that Hill, amongst all his schemes, had never attempted quackery, when the field was so open: this was reported to Hill by one of the company, and soon after came out one of his medicines; some of these, however, had not much success, but the tincture of sage, and balsam of honey, sold so well, that Ridley, the bookseller in St. James's-street, once assured Mr. Hudson, that he sold of them to the amount of £30. per week; and that a still greater quantity was sold in the City. Hill translated the King of Sweden's Memorial, and dedicated it to the King of England; a copy of it, elegantly bound,

was sent to Stockholm, and in return, the Order of the Polar Star, was offered to Hill; but “the companion to the play-house,” and some other things, being put into the hands of Baron Noleken by Dr. Solander, a demur took place, and Hill got only the Order of Wasa.

Mr. Hudson was with the Earl of Rochford, when Hill sent to ask of his Lordship to request the king’s leave to accept the Order of Wasa; leave was given.

Hill was at one time engaged in several periodical works at once:—the *Lady’s Magazine*; a *System of Divinity*; a *Periodical Cookery Book*; *Voyages and Travels*, and something else.

“The writer on snuff, on valerian and sage,  
The greatest impostor and quack of his age;  
The punishment order’d for all such sad crimes,  
Was to take his own physic, and read his own rhymes!”

## LEE.

The anatomy school at the University of Oxford, built in 1776, was founded and endowed by Matthew Lee, M. D. physician to George II. who acquired a large fortune by practice, and gave £20,000. for the encouragement of anatomy. His bust is placed in the theatre. He was a native of Northampton, and the "*juvenis quidam*," on whom Keil, made some of his statical experiments.

Among those who have bequeathed legacies for the encouragement of medical science in the University of Oxford, Sherard ought to have honourable mention. He gave during life £500. and by his will (1728) £3000. to be laid out for the maintenance of a botany professor, and appointed Dillenius to the office.

Sherard was originally an apothecary in Mark-lane, he became an M. D. and is said to have died worth £150,000! In the Sloane MSS. there is an entertaining account of a botanical excursion he made in Kent, with Mr. Petiver, through many "horrid and deep roads, as no coach or chaise had ever passed." Mr. Tydall, an apothecary, joined them; and at Winchelsea, they were entertained at the *Mayor's* house, and, the place not affording any wine, "regaled with excellent punch made by the *Mayoress*, every bowl of which was better than the former."—Jolly dogs!



## SIR WILLIAM DUNCAN.

Sir William Duncan once met Dr. Thomas Reeve, when the latter was President of the College, and insisted that his name should not follow Reeve's because he was physician to the king. Reeve asserted his dignity as president, and the consequence was, that each wrote his own prescription (the same they had agreed to,) and gave it to the apothecary.

There are many instances of medical etiquette being carried to a great extent, but polite etiquette in a sick room was perhaps never exceeded by the following exhibition of it, between the Duke of Ormond and a German Baron.

The Duke of Ormond and a certain German Baron, were both considered models of pride and politeness :—when the Duke perceived that he was dying, he desired that he might be seated in his elbow chair, and then, turning to the Baron, with great *courteousness*, he requested that he would excuse any unseemly contortions of feature, as his physicians assured him, that he must soon struggle with the last pangs. “My dear Lord Duke,” replied the Baron, with equal *politeness*, “I beg you will be on no ceremony on my account !”

## TONSTALL.

There is hardly any word more abused than the word *Doctor*. In *Nugæ Canoræ*, there is an anecdote of a Doctor Memis, who thought the title of “Le Docteur Memis,” of a higher grade than “Le Docte Memis;” certain it is, there are many *Doctes*—not *Doctors*, and many *Doctors* not *Doctes*.

Dr. Tonstall who wrote a Treatise concerning Scarborough Spaw, desired a friend to peruse it, before it went to the press, making many apologies for the flatness of the style. “As to style,” said his friend, “the gravity of the subject needs not the trifling embellishment of words or language, for “*Æger non querit medicum eloquentem sed sanantem.*” Nothing would serve the Doctor but he must know from what book this latin sentence was taken, that he might place it as a motto in the title-page of his manuscript; his friend would have put him off, saying it was too trite and vulgar a sentence to stand in the front of a learned work. But the honest Doctor, growing impatient, protested if his friend did not tell him whence he had it, he would quote it, and set him down as its author; so to satisfy the good Doctor’s importunity, he told him it was a line from Seneca.

## SIR PAUL JODDRELL,

Known in the literary world, for several lively works, and particularly for his dramatic writings; “Seeing is Believing;” “Widow or No Widow,” &c. &c. Sir Paul went to India under the following circumstances:—The Nabob of Arcot applied to the king to recommend a physician, his majesty made this application known to Sir George Baker, then president of the College, who recommended Joddrell as one of the Fellows. Had he not gone at this time, as Sir Richard Jebb’s death happened shortly after, it is probable, his general scholarship, and professional skill, would have made him one of the most celebrated physicians of London, as Sir Richard’s death brought forward Warren, Reynolds, Millman, and David Pitcairn.

It is perhaps not generally known that it was an English surgeon, of the name of Broughton, whose good fortune it was to open the commerce of India to his countrymen by the following accident. Having been sent from Surat to Agra in the year 1636, to treat one of the daughters of the Emperor Shaw Gehan, he had the good fortune to cure the Princess. By way of recompence, the Emperor, among other favours, gave him the privilege of a free commerce throughout the whole extent of his dominions. Broughton immediately returned to



Bengal, to purchase goods and transmit them by sea to Surat. Scarcely had he returned, when he was requested to attend the favourite of the Nabob of the province labouring under a very dangerous disease. Having fortunately restored his patient to health, the Nabob settled a pension on him, confirmed the privilege of the Empire, and promised to allow the same to all the English who should come to Bengal. Broughton communicated all this to the English Governor at Surat, and it was by the advice of the latter, that the Company sent from England in 1640, two ships to Bengal. Such was the origin of a commerce that has since been carried to so great an extent.

## BAILLIE,

Not Matthew Baillie, but an Irish gentleman who had been rejected by the College, called the next day on Dr. Barrowby, who was one of the Censors, and insisted upon his fighting him. Barrowby, who was a little puny man, declined it “I am only the third Censor,” said he, “in point of age—you must first call out your own countryman, Sir Hans Sloane, our President, and when you have fought him and the two senior Censors, then I shall be ready to meet you.”

Many medical duels have been prevented by the difficulty of arranging the “*methodus pugnandi*.” In the instance of Dr. Brocklesby, the number of paces could not be agreed upon; and in the affair between Akenside and Ballow, one had determined never to fight in the morning, and the other that he would never fight in the afternoon. John Wilkes, who did not stand upon ceremony in these little affairs, when asked by Lord Talbot, “How many times they were to fire?” replied “Just as often as your Lordship pleases; I have brought a *bag of bullets and a flask of gunpowder*.”

## BARROWBY.

There is an anecdote of this gentleman's rebuff to a consequential retailer of figs on Snow-hill, that has always pleased me, and though often told, bears telling again:—

Dr. Barrowby, when canvassing for St. Bartholomew's Hospital, came to a grocer's on Snow-hill, who was sitting in his counting-house, from whence he saw the Doctor come into the shop, and as he knew his person, suspected that he was come to ask for his vote—the grocer immediately put on his hat, and his spectacles, and strutting into his shop with great insolence, came up to the Doctor, with —“ Well, friend, and what is your business ? ” Barrowby immediately said—“ I want a pound of plums ; ” and after buying them went away without asking him for his vote. This was in better taste, than when a friend of mine, under similar circumstances, heard the grocer call out, “ *tell him to wait,* ” answered like an Irish echo in the same tone, “ *I'll be d——d if I do !* ”

Barrowby was a high spirited gentleman, moreover, he was a humane man, and an excellent physician. There is another anecdote also related of him, and which, like other stories, has often been



transferred to other persons, but of which the following letter is the authentic account:—

“ From DAVID ROSS, Esq. to ———, Esq.

“ Dear Sir,

“ Our conversation of yesterday evening, made such an impression on my mind, that I cannot avoid requesting you to publish the following anecdotes: they relate so immediately to Mr. Palmer’s plan, and to the commercial and mercantile interests of the metropolis, that I think it would be unjust to conceal them.

“ In the year 1752, during the Christmas holidays, I played George Barnwell, and the late Mrs. Pritchard played Millwood. Dr. Barrowby, physician to St. Bartholomew’s Hospital, told me he was sent for by a young gentleman, in Great St. Helen’s, apprentice to a very capital merchant. He found him very ill with a slow fever, a heavy hammer pulse, that no medicine could touch. The nurse told him he sighed at times so very heavily, that she was sure something lay heavy on his mind. The doctor sent every one out of the room, and told his patient he was sure there was something that oppressed his mind, and lay so heavy on his spirits, that it would be in vain to order him medicine, unless he would open his mind freely. After much solicitation on the part of the Doctor, the youth confessed there was something lay heavy at his

heart, but that he would sooner die than divulge it, as it must be his ruin if it was known. The Doctor assured him, if he would make him his confidant, he would by every means in his power serve him, and that the secret, if he desired it, should remain so to all the world, but to those who might be necessary to relieve him. After much conversation, he told the Doctor he was the second son to a gentleman of good fortune in Hertfordshire; that he had made an improper acquaintance with a kept mistress of a Captain of an Indiaman then abroad; that he was within a year of being out of his time, and had been entrusted with cash, draughts, and notes, which he had made free with, to the amount of two hundred pounds. That, going two or three nights before to Drury-lane, to see Ross and Mrs. Pritchard in their characters of George Barnwell and Millwood, he was so forcibly struck, he had not enjoyed a moment's peace since, and he wished to die, to avoid the shame he saw hanging over him. The Doctor asked where his father was?—he replied, he expected him there every minute, as he was sent for by his master upon his being taken so very ill. The Doctor desired the young gentleman to make himself perfectly easy, as he would undertake his father should make all right; and, to get his patient into a promising way, assured him, if his father made the least hesitation, he should have the money of *him*. The father soon arrived. The Doctor took him into another room, and, after explaining the whole cause of his son's

illness, begged him to save the honour of his family, and the life of his son. The father with tears in, his eyes, gave him a thousand thanks, said he would step to his banker and bring the money. While the father was gone, Doctor Barrowby went to his patient, and told him every thing would be settled in a few minutes, to his ease and satisfaction: that his father was gone to his banker for the money, and would soon return with peace and forgiveness, and never mention or even think of it more. What is very extraordinary, the Doctor told me, that in a few minutes after he communicated this news to his patient, upon feeling of his pulse, without the help of any medicine, he was quite another creature. The father returned with notes to the amount of £ 200. which he put into his son's hands—they wept, kissed, embraced. The son soon recovered, and lived to be a very eminent merchant. Doctor Barrowby never told me the name, but the story he mentioned often in the green-room of Drury-lane Theatre; and after telling it one night when I was standing by, he said to me, “ You have done some good in your profession, more, perhaps, than many a clergyman who preached last Sunday.”—For the patient told the Doctor, the play raised such horror and contrition in his soul, that he would, if it would please God to raise a friend to extricate him out of that distress, dedicate the rest of his life to religion and virtue. Though I never knew his name, or saw him to my knowledge, I had for nine or ten years,



at my benefit, a note sealed up with nine or ten guineas, and these words:—"A tribute of gratitude from one who was highly obliged, and saved from ruin, by seeing Mr. Ross's performance of Barnwell."

"I am, Dear Sir,

Yours truly,

DAVID ROSS."

*Hampstead, 20th Aug. 1787.*

Alas! how often do we witness the truth of Ovid's sentiment:—

"Vitiant artus ægre contagia mentis."

## DOUSE.

There is an engraved portrait of Dr. Douse, in which he is seen mounted on a prancing horse; this Dr. Douse, was a licentiate of the College, an honour he is supposed to have obtained by unfair means, as he was a very ignorant man, and his whole knowledge of medicine consisted in three prescriptions. He built a mausoleum for himself at, or near Hackney, twenty years before he died, and afterwards went to law with the mason, because he had not made it of *durable materials*.

There are many curious anecdotes in medical history, relative to the sepulchral habitations, and honors of medical men. Some have not chosen to be buried in churches, or church-yards, fearing to encounter some of their former patients, and having over their heads inscribed:—

“ At length a grave-spot’s for him provided,  
“ Where all through him so many of us die did.”

While others have forbid it, on the score of public safety:—

“ Ut nemini noceret mortuus, qui nemini nocuerat vivus.”

Verheyen, professor of anatomy and physic,

at Louvain, composed the following epitaph on himself:—

“ Philip Verheyen, Doctor and Professor of Physic, ordered his mortal part to be buried here, in the church-yard, that he might not pollute the church, and infect it with noxious effluvia.”

This seems to have given a hint to a Dr. in Staffordshire, who was buried in a garden with this inscription:—

“ Here lieth Dr. ———, who departed this life, December 22, 1745, and desired to be interred here in his own garden, rather than in a church, or church-yard, lest he who had studied to promote man's health while alive, should be detrimental to it when dead; as well as defile the house of God. Aged 66.”

Dr. Monsey, who left his body to Chelsea Hospital, at one time intended it should be buried in his garden, with an epitaph written by himself, which concluded with the following lines:—

“ What the next world may be, never troubl'd my pate;  
And be what it may, I beseech thee, Oh! fate!  
When the bodies of millions rise up in a riot,  
To let the old carcase of Monsey lie quiet.”



## FREIND,

The poet tell us that—

“ When *Radcliffe* fell, afflicted physic cried—  
How vain my power ! and languished at his side.  
When *Freind* expir'd, deep-struck, her hair she tore,  
And speechless fainted, and revived no more.”—

which, though it sounds very prettily in poetry, is not exactly true, as *Madame Physic*, revived afterwards, and has had some *Friends* since, of whom she has been as justly proud, though in a pecuniary consideration, *quasi honorarium*, the *Friends* of former times, were full as highly estimated, as the *Friends* of these days, as the following anecdote will prove:—

Mr. Pulteney, afterwards known by the title of Lord Bath, laid a long time most dangerously ill of a violent pleuretic fever, at the first Lord Chetwynd's, at Ingestree, in Staffordshire. That illness cost him about 750 guineas in physicians, and his cure was effected at last by some small beer. Dr. Hope, Dr. Swynsen, and other physicians from Stafford, Litchfield, and Derby, were called in, and had about 250 guineas of the money. Dr. Freind went down post from London, with Mrs. Pulteney, and received 300 guineas for his journey. Dr. Broxholm went from Oxford, and received 200

guineas. When these physicians, who were his particular friends, arrived, they found the case quite desperate, and gave him entirely over. They said, every thing had been done that could be done. They prescribed some few medicines, but without the least effect. He was still alive, and was heard to mutter, in a low voice, “Small beer, small beer.” They said, “Give him small beer, or any thing.” Accordingly a great silver cup was brought, which contained two quarts of small beer; they ordered an orange to be squeezed into it, and gave it him. He drank the whole at a draught, and called for another. Another was given him; and soon after drinking that, he fell into a most profound sleep, and a most profuse sweat, for near twenty-four hours. In him the saying was verified, *If he sleep, he shall do well*. From that time he recovered marvellously, insomuch that in a very few days the physicians took their leave. The joy of his recovery was diffused all over the country, for he was then in the height of his popularity. But it would perhaps, have been better for his fair fame had his career ended here:—for the *Earl of Bath* forgot the promises of *Mr. Pulteney*.

## CADOGAN.

Universal temperance in eating and drinking, has been considered as particularly incumbent on a physician, in every period of his practice. It is a virtue he is frequently obliged to inculcate on his patients; and his doctrines will have little effect if they be not regularly exemplified in his own conduct.

Doctor Cadogan, however, thought it right *to try all things*, and considered it his duty to speak *experimentally* on both sides of the question, to qualify himself to say in the language of Dido :—

“ Non ignara mali miseris succurrere disco.”

Thus, dining one day at a College dinner, after discoursing most elegantly and forcibly, on abstinence, temperance, and particularly against pie-crust and pastry,—he is reported to have addressed a brother M. D. in the following terms :—“ Pray, doctor, is that a pigeon-pie near you ? ” “ Yes Sir.” —“ Then I will thank you to send me, the hind-quarters of two pigeons—some fat of the beef-steak, a good portion of the pudding-crust, and as much gravy as you can spare ! ”



## INGRAM.

A man of extraordinary parts ; of low origin, but great application, and the founder of his own fortune, which was very considerable. He was originally apprenticed to a shoe-maker, by degrees he became a barber and tooth-drawer, and took upon himself the title of *Doctor*. At first he could hardly read, but having improved himself by diligent application, he borrowed a few medical books among his neighbours, and shortly extended his views to bone-setting, and became one of the most eminent practitioners of this department in the kingdom, being noted for his success, and having a very extensive practice, not only in the country, but even in London. To make his son a greater doctor than himself, he sent him to Oxford—but as learned doctors seldom succeed so well as ignorant ones, he added no additional lustre to the name, in truth, when he read in Homer of—

“ The souls of mighty chiefs untimely slain ! ”

“ Untimely slain ! ”—the pupil stop’t and cried—

“ Is then this fuss and toil for that applied ?

“ Homer farewell ! what need thro’ verse to roam ?

“ We’ve plenty of *untimely slain* at home ! ”

## BUTTER.

Mr. John Whitehurst, (author of an ingenious theory of the earth), was the means of Dr. Wm. Butter's settling at Derby, where he (Mr. W.) then resided. Mr. Whitehurst had met at Buxton with Lord Hopetown, who had asked him what physicians were at Derby, and upon his telling him, that there could not be a finer opening, as the two physicians there had both declined practice, his Lordship said it would be a good place for Butter, and shortly afterwards, the Doctor made his appearance loaded with recommendations, and among others, with one from Dr. Hope to Mr. Whitehurst. Mr. W. was very civil to him, but before he had been a fortnight in the town, Butter came and complained, that he had not had a single patient. Mr. W. told him, that he could hardly expect any so soon, that he must be known a little, and so on, which so offended Butter, that ever afterwards, he considered Mr. W. as his enemy. He was very rude and coarse in his manner, always averse to consultations, and used to say, that nobody but himself and Sir John Pringle knew any thing of physic. Among his patients at Derby, were two brothers, opulent men, who lived together; one of them being dangerously ill, and attended by Butter, the other brother sent a messenger to Birmingham, for two physicians, and

then told Butter what he had done, and that he intended to have a consultation;—Butter immediately went to the apothecary, and got some laudanum, of which he gave large doses to the patient, so that when the Birmingham physicians came, the patient was in a state of lethargy. They asked if he had been taking opium, but Butter denied that any had been given; it was accidentally discovered, however, by means of the Apothecary, and from that time Butter, who was before in excellent practice, lost considerably in public estimation.

A tailor at Derby, whom Butter had offended, once played him a trick:—a curer of smoky chimnies came to Derby, and one day, when the tailor knew the Doctor was out of town, he called on the chimney-man, and told him, that Butter had desired, to have a smoky-chimney cured, belonging to his best parlour; and had left positive orders that he should go to his house and set about it immediately. The operator accordingly went, delivered his message to Butter's servant, pulled out his utensils, and fell to work; and in a short time the marble slab, and other ornaments of the chimney were down. Butter came in while he was engaged in this business; finding his parlour full of bricks and dirt and mortar, his fury was excessive, and his hatred to the tailor was ever after implacable. The story got wind in the town, and the



boys in the street, would sometimes talk about *chimney-doctors* as he passed.

Butter lived close to a church-yard, and one day seeing a grave-digger at work, he asked him for whom he was digging the grave—"For so and so," said the grave-digger, naming the tailor, who had so highly offended him, which so pleased the Doctor, that he gave the fellow a shilling. This occasioned a fresh laugh at his expense, as the tailor was in good health, and it was merely a piece of pleasantry of the grave-digger's. Butter and his wife lived in the most frugal manner, and never visited any body. After he came to London, a lady of fortune, who had been his patient in Derbyshire, and wished to countenance him, invited him often to her table, till at length Butter brought in an account of fees for each visit.

## BURGESS.

Dr. John Burgess, an eccentric physician, known as the *Burgess of Warwick Lane*. He was the son of an apothecary, who wrote on inoculation; his grandfather, a chemist and druggist in James-street, Covent-garden, served his apprenticeship to a Mr. Saint Amand, who was apothecary to James II. and William II. and is perhaps the only medical man on record who had been a *Privy Counsellor*.

Of the three learned professions, Law, Physic, and Divinity, those which have for their object the care of man's property and conscience, lead to greater honours, than that which only takes care of the body. *My Lord Bishop*, and *My Lord Judge*, make great figures in the peerage, but no *My Lord Doctor*—this was not the case in the early ages, before law and divinity were known. The *Doctors* of the ancients were *Divinities*, and Julius Cæsar honoured them with the rights of “*Citizens of Rome*.”

On the Continent there are *Aulic Counsellors*, and *Barons* in abundance, and one Prussian surgeon, Ulric Von Bilguer, had letters of nobility, for writing against the “*Amputation of Limbs*.” Our London Colleges produce *Knights* and *Baronets*, and the medical annals of London afford one

instance of a *Noble* practitioner, in the person of Surgeon Sandy Maxwell, *Lord Niddesdale*! a convivial soul, who used to realize an old adage that “Likens a man to a Lord,” long before he was one, for Sandy seldom went to bed sober.

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## EATON.

Dr. Eaton, a vender of a styptic, was examined and rejected by the College. He applied to parliament about his nostrum, but he requested that the business might not be referred to the College, as there was some “misunderstanding between him and them.” Dr. Plumtree, who had been one of the examiners, on being told this, replied, “it is very true, but the *misunderstanding* was all on his side.”



## WARNER.

An eminent surgeon, born in the island of Antigua in 1717, on the family estate, which he inherited, together with a ring, famous in history as that given by Queen Elizabeth to the Earl of Essex, and which the Countess of Nottingham never delivered to the Queen, and this, according to the story, was the cause of Essex losing his life.

In the year 1745, Adair and many other surgeons volunteered to serve with the army, and among them Warner and Cowell. While they were in Scotland, Cowell got private information of a vacancy at St. Thomas's Hospital, and without apprizing Warner of it, said that very particular business required his presence in London, and accordingly took leave of his friend. Cowell was a quaker, and so was Dimsdale, who had been an unsuccessful candidate before, and on this occasion, resigning his interest in favour of Cowell, Warner was defeated. Warner never forgave this, and when he met his colleagues of the Court of Assistants at Surgeon's Hall, he invariably accosted them with "How do ye do gentlemen? I am glad to see you, all, except Mr. Cowell."

## WASDALE.

Dr. Wasdale was originally an apothecary at Carlisle. In the latter part of his life he resided in Spring Gardens, but did not practise, being much with the late Duke of Norfolk, to whom he acted as private secretary. He resided at Carlisle when George III. came to the throne; and having some business to transact in London, was anxious to see the coronation at the same time. As he was very busy in his professional engagements at Carlisle, he set out on a Saturday after the market was over, about one in the afternoon, and got to London the next day, Sunday, in the evening, having rode 301 miles in 28 hours. He left London again on the following Thursday about noon, and got home on Friday in the evening.

This is perhaps, the greatest equestrian feat in the annals of medical history, and for the information of any of the faculty who may hereafter wish to repeat the exploit—the Doctor left a memorandum “That he made use of his own saddle the whole journey.”

## WILLIAM HUNTER.

Dr. William Hunter used to relate the following anecdote. During the American war, he was consulted by the daughter of a Peer, who confessed herself pregnant, and requested his assistance; he advised her to retire for a time to the house of some confidential friend; she said that was impossible, as her father would not suffer her to be absent from him a single day. Some of the servants were, therefore, let into the secret, and the Doctor made his arrangement with the treasurer of the Foundling Hospital for the reception of the child, for which he was to pay £100.—The lady was desired to weigh well if she could bear pain, without alarming the family by her cries; she said “Yes,”—and she kept her word. At the usual period, she was delivered, not of one child only, but of twins. The Doctor bearing the two children, was conducted by a French servant through the kitchen, and left to ascend the area steps into the street. Luckily the lady’s-maid recollected that the door of the area might perhaps be locked; and she followed the doctor just in time to prevent his being detained at the gate. He deposited the children at the Foundling Hospital, and paid for each £100. The father of the children was a Colonel of the army, who went with his regiment to America, and died there. The mother afterwards married a person of her own rank.



## MACKENZIE.

Connected with the subject of Midwifery—Midwifery Lectures and Dr. Hunter—is the name of Doctor Colin Mackenzie of St. Saviour's Churchyard, Southwark. To say that he was a competitor of a Hunter, would sound oddly in the ears of “*nous autres*” in these days, and yet, when we find his name enrolled in the annals of medicine, as a teacher of midwifery, and know the fact, that Doctor Orme gave a *thousand guineas* for his preparations, and moreover, that accidental circumstances prevented his sharing with William Hunter the honours and emoluments of Windmill-street; we cannot deny his claim to a reminiscence in the *Mems.* of the medical fraternity of the last century.

He had originally been a surgeon to a man of war, no uncommon school of midwifery in those days, and with a considerable knowledge of the world, a certain quantity of Scotch classics, and a good deal of that national tact, that fits a man for taking advantage of circumstances, he arrived in London at a period when such talents were very easily turned to account. At this period, Dr. William Saunders, and Mr. Cline, first began to make the Borough Hospitals a conspicuous school of medical tuition, and Dr. Mackenzie, though not

connected with the establishment, formed a very important adjunct to it.

The Doctor was a batchelor, and gave dinners according to the fashion of our fathers—a joint and a pudding, and very jolly dinners they were, (as I am told), though the floor was *sanded*, and the beef and pudding were without silver covers. Good port wine and sherry came cool from the Doctor's cellar, but when he meant to do honour to “Scotch Cousins,” a hamper of claret in the corner of the dining room, gave a zest to the philosophy and the festivity of the party.

He died about 1775, and his brother, the Laird of Muirton came from Scotland to take possession of the “goods and chattels,”—and moreover, some bank stock, altogether to the amount of about £10,000.

The Laird of Muirton, brought with him an honest bullock-driving Scotch friend, of the name of Calder, a dealer in black cattle, who being a “cannie chiel,” was his adviser and “stand by.” Calder, had seen enough of paper currency in those days, to prefer gold to bills, and when Orme gave his draft for one thousand guineas for the preparations, Calder received it all in gold, which was deposited in a box, and placed in the chaise that was to take *Muirton* and himself to Scotland.—But alas! for human foresight—before they got to Edin-

burgh, the chafing of the gold, had found an opening in the box, and when they took stock at Carlisle, the original sum was deficient, 250 guineas in number, and the remainder were in the condition, that in the language of medicine and money, is understood by the term “sweated,” so that in point of fact the discount on *gold* turned out greater than on *paper*.

While Muirton and his man Calder were in London, an excellent friend of theirs and mine, proposed a visit to Windsor. A coach and four took the party to the White Hart, a party remembered for “lang syne,” when the Laird of Muirton paid the reckoning, and Gun Monro, the Laird of Pointzfield, played the fiddle.



## JOHN HUNTER.

When Hunter began practice, the town was in possession of Hawkins, Bromfield, Sharpe, and Pott; whilst Adair and Tomkins, had the chief practice derived from the army. He remained in unenvied obscurity for many years, and so little was he considered, some time after he began lecturing, that his class consisted of less than twenty, among whom were Cline, Lynn, Brand, Adams, Vaux, and Justamond. Dr. Garthshore occasionally looked in, wound up his watch, and fell asleep.

Dr. Denman used to say that William Hunter was a man of order, and John Hunter a man of genius, and in truth, with all his cleverness, which was more than ordinary, the Doctor always felt John's superiority. "In this I am only my brother's interpreter"—"I am simply the demonstrator of this discovery; it was my brother's," were his constant expressions.

Hunter was a philosopher in more senses than one; he had philosophy enough to bear prosperity, as well as adversity, and with a rough exterior was a very kind man. The poor could command his services more than the rich. He would see an industrious tradesman before a duke, when his

house was full of grandees, “you have no time to spare,” he would say, “you live by it; most of these can wait, they have nothing to do when they go home.” No man cared less for the profits of the profession, or more for the honour of it. He cared not for money himself, and wished the Doctor to estimate it by the same scale, when he sent a poor man with this laconic note :—

“ Dear Brother,

“ The bearer wants your advice. I do not know the nature of the case. He has no money, and you have plenty, so you are well met.

Yours,

J. HUNTER.”

He was once applied too to perform a serious operation on a tradesman's wife; the fee agreed upon was twenty guineas. He heard no more of the case for two months; at the end of which time he was called upon to perform it. In the course of his attendance, he found out that the cause of the delay had been the difficulty under which the patient's husband had laboured to raise the money; and that they were worthy people, who had been unfortunate, and were by no means able to support the expence of such an affliction. “ I sent back to the husband nineteen guineas, and kept the twentieth,” said he, “ that they might not be hurt with

an idea of too great obligation. It somewhat more than paid me for the expence I had been at in the business."

He held the operative part of surgery in the lowest estimation. "To perform an operation," said he, "is to mutilate a patient whom we are unable to cure; it should therefore be considered as an acknowledgment of the imperfection of our art." With what proud feelings he must have contemplated the improved treatment of the poplitical aneurism, when success justified the high conception he had formed of it!

In former times it would appear as if some operations were done for the patient, and some for the practitioner. A friend of mine met a sailor with a wooden leg, "his precious limb was lopped off,"—"And where was it lopped off?"—"At St. Thomas's,"—"And what was it lopped off for?"—"Why, as to the matter o'that," quoth Jack, "nothing, that I could ever see." Mr. Hunter, who did more than any human being, to lessen the frequency of operations, once had a patient of a similar kind. He was a most anxious man about an operation, which, in those days, were attended almost with the formalities of an execution. He had got on *his dress*, and a profound silence reigned in the theatre;—the surgery-man was ordered to bring in the patient who was to have his leg taken off. The surgery-man disappeared; in two minutes



he returned, with a face as long as the *leg*, solus—“Why do you not bring in the patient?” was demanded by the expectant operator,—“Because, Sir,” said the astonished surgery-man, “Because, Sir, he has ran-away.”

One of the most singular circumstances in Hunter's life was his evidence on the Trial of Captain Donellan, which the learned Judge Buller, was pleased to say, he could not comprehend. This arose from Hunter's caution, in not saying more than he could maintain, and because he saw a number of difficulties which never occurred to others, and which proves that medical evidence is different from other evidence, and that what would satisfy a court of law, would not satisfy a court of medical inquiry. A conscientious, and honest man, asserts that he has been cured of a particular disease, by a particular medicine, and satisfies himself he is asserting a *simple fact*: but it is not so; it involves two questions:—first, as to whether he had the specified disease;—and secondly, supposing he had—did the medicine cure it? Here what ought to be stated as an *opinion*, is stated as a *fact*, and sworn to, if necessary, as is often seen in many worthy patronizers of quackery. Hunter's evidence is a perfect specimen of what medical evidence ought to be. Yet the learned Judge said he could not tell, what his opinion was, “For he did not seem to have formed any opinion at all of the matter.” The truth was, he would give no opinion that his know-

ledge of facts did not warrant.—Of the mode of dying, and the appearances after death, he spoke decidedly enough; he stuck to the point, and nothing could shake him. So, in another similar case, when a counsellor asked “If he did not *at first sight*, consider the wound as mortal?” his answer was “*No*, there was nothing *necessarily mortal in the wound*, but the general effects upon the whole system, were sufficient to shew that the patient could not live.”

Among other characteristics of genius, was his simplicity of character, and singleness of mind. His works were announced as the works of *John Hunter*, and *John Hunter* on a plain brass plate announced his residence. His honour and his pride made him look with contempt on the unworthy arts, by which ignorant and greedy men advance their fortunes. He contemplated the hallowed duties of his Art, with the feelings of a philanthropist and a philosopher, and although surgery had been cultivated more than 2000 years, this single individual did more towards establishing it as a *Science*, than all who preceded him.

## DARWIN.

Darwin has been called a poetical man of science, a title that will readily be granted him, when we enumerate a few of his plans, by which, like the philosopher in *Rasselas*, he was to controul the winds, and manage the seasons.

By one plan it was proposed to increase the quantity of electricity in the atmosphere, by way of altering the *climate*, and that there should be a *Board of Weather* established, to determine when rain and when sunshine were wanted, and to regulate the quantity accordingly. To aid in this desirable object, it was farther proposed, to tow the Ice-Islands to the Tropics; and it was most ingeniously devised, that chimnies should be made in the earth, by which the heat of volcanoes should be turned to account.

His *Zoonomia* was characterized as a work of abundant conjecture and little fact. It was calculated for the speculative man—not the practical man. The pathology was discussed and dismissed by the judicious part of the profession. It produced no change—John Brown, had taken possession of the best part of the ground before, and the extravagant hypotheses advanced in his *Botanic*



Garden, contributed to injure the success of his medical system.

His mode of writing, his elegant amplification, and manner of relating trivial incidents, and common circumstances, in refined expression and poetical phrase, have been happily parodied in a boat shooting through London Bridge :—

“ So thy dark arches, London Bridge, bestride  
Indignant Thames, and part his angry tide ;  
There oft in well-trimm’d wherry glide along,  
Smart beaux, and giggling belles, a glittering throng,  
Smells the tarr’d rope with undulation fine,  
Flaps the loose sail, the silken awnings shine ;  
‘ Shoot we the bridge ? ’ the vent’rous boatmen cry—  
‘ Shoot we the bridge ? ’ th’ exulting fare reply :  
Down the steep fall, the headlong cocknies go,  
Curls the white foam, the breakers roar below,  
With strong clos’d eyes, clench’d fists, and quick drawn breath,  
As at the centre arch they dart beneath ;  
Full ’gainst the pier the unsteady timbers knock,  
The thin planks starting, own th’ impetuous shock :—  
The shifted oar, drop’t sail, and steadied helm,  
With angry surge the closing waters whelm,  
Laughs the glad Thames, and clasps each fair one’s charms,  
That screams and struggles in his oozy arms.”

With most powerful claims to popular estimation, a vigorous mind, brilliant imagination, and transcendent talents, Darwin is little thought of; but our surprise will cease, when we find the system of nature perverted and distorted, to support the proportion and symmetry of artificial systems.

## JACKSON.

The following narrative proves that medicine is still a "*conjectural art*," and that the wisest and best physicians may be mistaken.

In the year 1793, Dr. Seguin Henry Jackson, was called by a friend of his, an apothecary in Soho, to see his son, who was ill with fever. Doctor Jackson considered it as inflammatory, and prescribed the usual remedies. The patient, who was a pupil at Dr. Baillie's, in Anatomy, was anxious to have his opinion. Baillie accordingly met Jackson, and very decidedly spoke of the disease as having a putrid tendency, and of the necessity of supporting the patient, and giving the bark freely; it was accordingly given with wine, &c. Jackson dissented;—the patient every day got worse; the tongue became furred, dry and black; there were specks in the throat; these Jackson considered as inflammation—Baillie as putrid symptoms. Jackson still supporting his opinion, Baillie insisted on another physician being called in, and named David Pitcairn, who agreed with Baillie, and opium was added to the wine plan. The abdomen became tumid, and an eruption appeared on the skin, which Jackson argued was the effect of the bark, and tonics, and called it a peruvian fever. In this stage of the complaint, the

disease growing worse, it was proposed that a fourth physician should be called in;—this was at their evening's visit, for Pitcairn had only met them once a day; Sir George Baker was named, but it did not suit him to attend. When Pitcairn came the next day, he and Baillie agreed in saying to the family, that they thought it would be best for all three physicians to leave the patient, and that two others should be called in, who without being told of the diversity of opinions, should be asked to prescribe according to the symptoms. Baillie and Pitcairn withdrew, but Jackson chose to remain. Dr. Warren was now called in, and the father only met him the first time. He enquired what the patient was taking:—"The bark," said he, "won't do here." He ordered his bowels to be cleared, and myrrh with acids. He was asked if he thought the disorder putrid?—"No, inflammatory." He had then a letter put into his hands, which had been left for him, written by Pitcairn and Baillie. After reading it, he said they had taken some little advantage of him, but his opinion was given, and he could not alter it. Jackson afterwards met him occasionally, and the patient got well.

The great names connected with this mistake, should teach us a lesson of modesty, and so far we may improve by it; nor can the practice of medicine be hurt, for as Dr. Hoadley once said, "*The errors of physicians, afford no reason against taking physic.*"



## MYERSBACK.

Hume has remarked, how mankind are constantly deceived, by the very same tricks played over and over again. Human credulity, indeed, seems wholly incurable; and, in spite of all warning, we see one generation after another, with their eyes wide open, walk into the same gulf of fraud, quackery, and imposture. This observation is confirmed, by the following memorandum from the notebook of a gentleman, many years a distinguished physician in London:—

“ Sep. 1, 1795. I went in a Bath coach to Reading with an Irish gentleman from near Wexford, who had been consulting Myersback for one of his friends, an hypochondriacal man, and on being told by the Doctor, that he could do nothing without a sight of the patient’s water, had carried a little of his own in a phial, and called it his friend’s. Myersback, who had at the said interview, remarked the healthy look of the gentleman, now spoke of many complaints of the owner of the water, alluded to the good living of his early days, and hinted at ulcers in the kidney, &c. My fellow-traveller said, that, in consequence, he had fancied a pain in his back all day; he had got the Doctor’s medicines with him, (a bottle of drops and some pills), for which he had paid eight shillings, in

addition to ten shillings and six-pence to the Doctor. He proposed at Bath to throw them away, as they might be active medicines, and do his friend harm, whom he supposed to be merely hypochondriacal, and he meant to get something very harmless made up in their stead. Notwithstanding the experience this gentleman had thus had of Myersback's imposition and ignorance, he continued to have great faith in him, and spoke of a wonderful cure he had performed on an Irish friend of his, after he had been given over by Dr. Falconer, of Bath, and others, on account of a supposed ulcer of the bladder; and when I observed to him, that Myersback had been a groom, "It matter'd not," said he, "what he had been, or where or how he had got his knowledge;—and knowledge he has to a wonderful degree!"

Dr. Lettsom had the credit of ridding society of this impostor, but not till he had done considerable mischief. "In every unhappy case," says the Doctor, "in which I have followed Myersback, my heart has bled over the follies of my fellow-creatures." And yet Myersback returned to Germany with a splendid fortune.

## FORD.

The late Mr. Ford, Surgeon, in Golden Square, was requested to attend a patient in Piccadilly, who was very seriously bruised and disfigured;—"I found," said Mr. Ford, "that my patient was a Dutch emigrant, formerly a Deputy to the States-General—that he has long had an odd custom, (a sort of insanity,) of going once a week to the Hay-market, and standing at the corner of the court near Farmer's, the coachmakers, that leads into Jermyn-street, there he stops till four men have passed him into the court, and the fourth man he follows, till he has housed him. One day, the fourth man happened to be a person living in Wapping; the Dutchman dodged him as far as Hungerford-market, and then the *Wapping* man, finding himself dodged, attacked the Dutchman, who got beat by the mob, and this occasioned his application to me."

Mr. Ford was nephew of Dr. Ford, and cousin of Sir Richard Ford the Magistrate.



## TERRAN.

Thomas Terran, M. D. better known by the name of Dr. Tom Bowling, entered the navy as a surgeon in early life, and served in the American war, which was with him a favourite subject of conversation. Though nearly *eighty years* of age, he conversed with great vivacity. Not having had any medical practice, at least within the memory of his nearest acquaintance, the manner in which he procured a livelihood was involved in mystery, which he had the prudence never to remove. He solicited no aid from those with whom he associated; and therefore enjoyed, at least among them, the pleasure of seeming independent. There was a ludicrous ostentation about his character, which sometimes led him to go to the expense of a shilling fare hackney coach, in which, when he arrived at his humble lodgings, he would announce with an air of importance, that he had been visiting a patient: but the care of his own health was the only matter that had been under his professional skill for the last half century. He frequently wore an old velvet cap, of which he seemed not a little proud. It was the only article of costly manufacture in his possession. He was supposed to be very poor, but appeared to enjoy life to the last, and left enough to defray the expenses of a funeral. He resided for the last seven years in Harford-court, Drury-lane, so obscure and secret, that, in former times, it would be supposed his nights were passed in searching for the philosopher's stone.

## MONSEY.

This eccentric person died at the great age of 96, and was for half a century, physician to Chelsea Hospital. He left his body for dissection, and a few days before he died, wrote to Mr. Cruikshanks, the Anatomist, begging to know, whether it would suit his convenience to do it, as he felt he could not live many hours, and Mr. Forster, his Surgeon, was then out of town. He died as he predicted, and his wishes with respect to his body, were strictly attended to.

In consequence of his great age, numerous candidates repaired to Chelsea, to contemplate the the various agreements of the situation. Monsey, who was a humourist, and moreover had a quick eye for a visitant of this class, one day, spied a reconnoitering doctor in the college walks, whom he accosted as follows :—

“ So, Sir, I find you are one of the candidates to succeed me.”

The Physician bowed, and he proceeded :

“ But you will be confoundedly disappointed.”

“ Disappointed ! ” said the Physician, with quivering lips.

“ Yes,” returned Monsey, “ you expect to out-live me ; but I can discern from your countenance, and other concomitant circumstances, that you are deceiving yourself—you will certainly die first: though, as I have nothing to expect from that event, I shall not rejoice at your death, as I am persuaded you would at mine.”

This was actually the case: the candidate lived but a short time. The Doctor was so diverted with checking the aspiring hopes of his brethren of the faculty, that whenever he saw a physician on the look-out, he used to go down and comfort him in the like manner. He had done so to several; and which is very extraordinary, his prognostications were in every instance verified: the medical speculators shrunk aghast from Chelsea; so that, at the death of Dr. Monsey, the Minister was not engaged by a single promise, nor had for some time had a single application for the place of Physician to the College.



## WOODVILLE.

Dr. Joseph Adams, who was much with Woodville just before his death, used to relate several traits of his firmness, and seeming unconcern with respect to death. Woodville lived in lodgings at a carpenter's in Ely-place, and Adams, a few days before his death, advised the matron of the Small-pox Hospital to invite him to have a bed made up there, that he might be better attended to; this she did, and Woodville accepted it. He observed to Adams, the next day, that he was a poor man come to die at the hospital, and he remarked that some of those who called on him flattered him with hopes of his getting better. "But I am not so silly," he said, "as to mind what they say; I know my own case too well, and that I am dying, a younger man with better stamina might think it hard to die; but why should I regret leaving such a diseased, worn-out carcase, as mine?"

The carpenter with whom he lodged had not been always on the best terms with him; Woodville said he should wish to let the man see that he died in peace with him, and as he never had much occasion to employ him, desired he might be sent for to come and measure him for his coffin. This was done; the carpenter came, and took measure of the

Doctor, who begged him not to be more than two days about it; "For," said he, "I shall not live beyond that time," and he did actually die just before the end of the next day. He got between one and two thousand pounds by his Medical Botany, and with the money bought a small estate, which he left to his natural daughter, being all the property he possessed.

A contemporary and friend of his, Dr. George Fordyce, also expired under similar circumstances. He desired his youngest daughter, who was sitting by his bed-side, to take up a book, and read to him; she read for about twenty minutes, when the Doctor said, "Stop, go out of the room; I am going to die."—She put down the book, and went out of the room to call the attendant, who immediately went into the bed-room, and found Fordyce had breathed his last.

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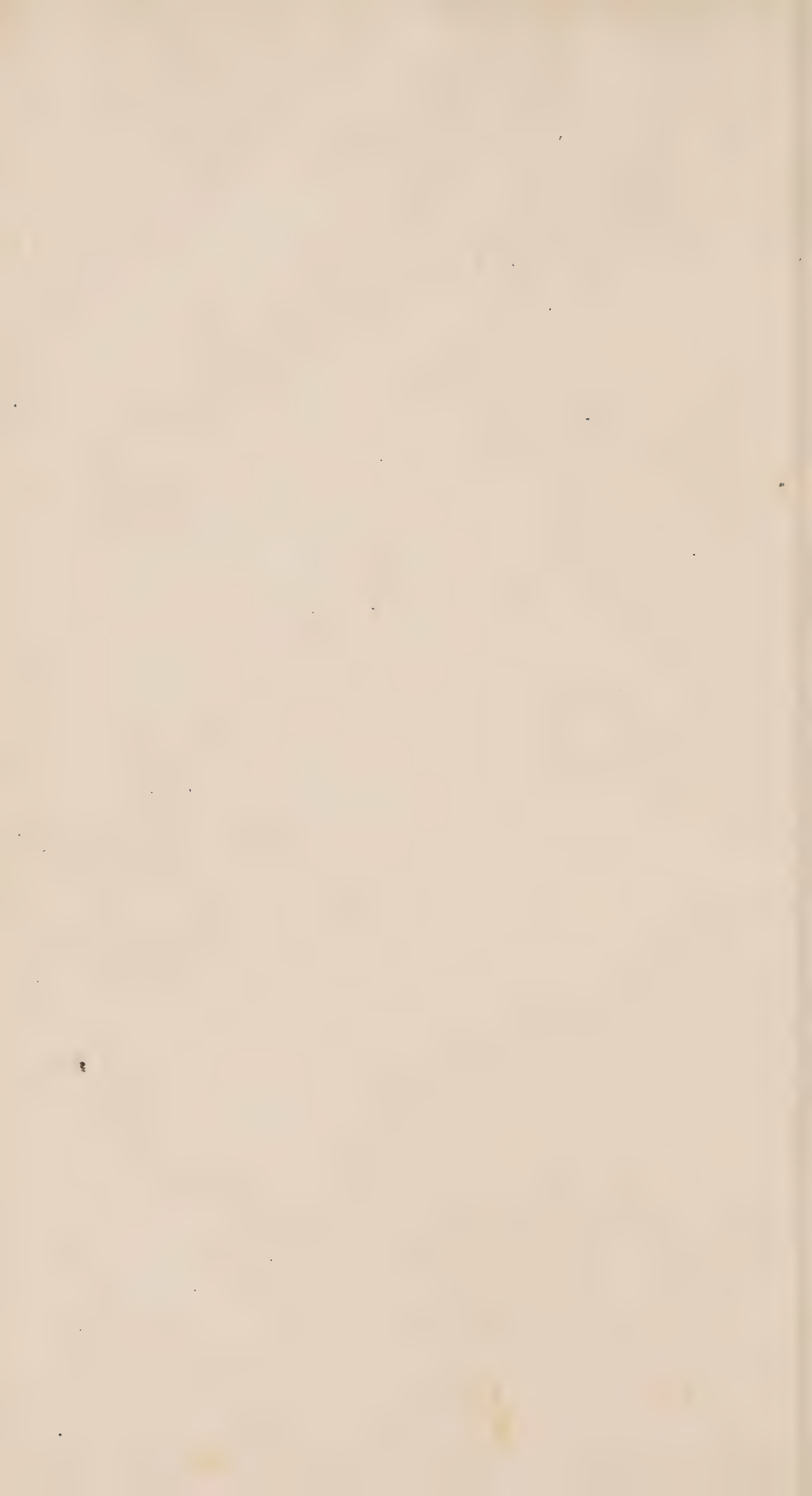
Here then for the present we conclude our *Mems*. They are offered as a *slight Sketch*, or *Outline*, that may be filled up and ornamented, as varied taste or fancy may direct; and happy would the original draughtsman be, to see his design adopted, continued, and perfected, by the hand of a master.—The sources are open to every one, and the *Matériel* abundant.

THE END.











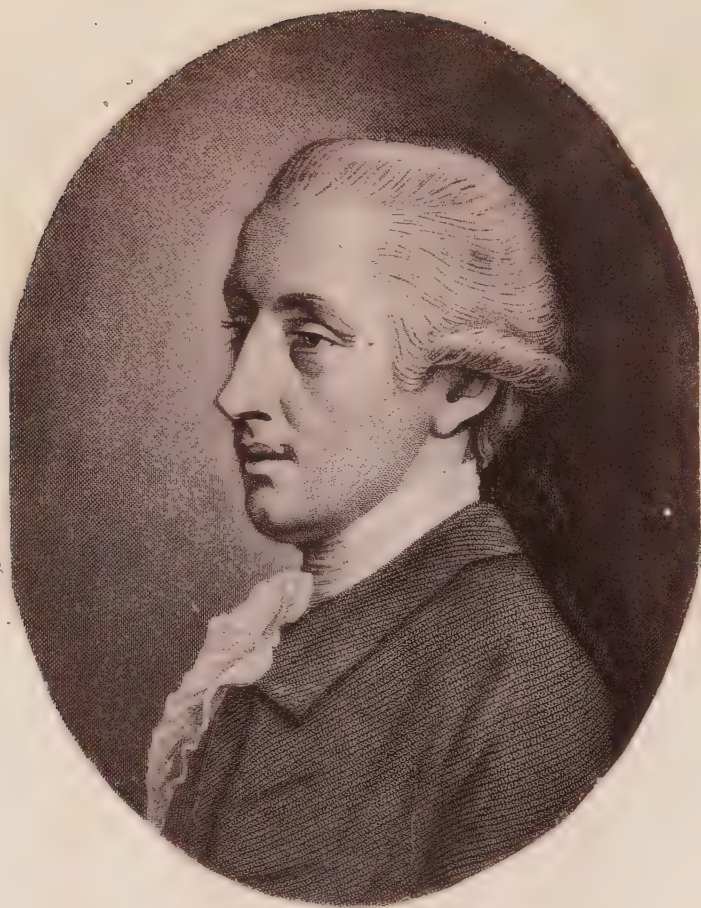


In Italy, France, Germany, Belgium and elsewhere physicians and surgeons who ministered to plague-stricken patients wore a special dress such as is represented in Fig. 1. The



Fig. 1.—A mediæval physician in his plague dress (from Muratori's *Il Governo della Peste*).

mantle, breeches, shirt, boots, gloves, and hat were generally of morocco leather. The beak attached to the mask was filled with aromatics, over which the air passed in respiration. A



William Hewson

Autotype of an engraving by  
H. Robinson, first published  
in Gulliver's Life of Hewson, from  
a mezzotint by Vanderpacht.

5102.













